



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

NYPL RESEARCH LIBRARIES



3 3433 07589242 6

25

Ken

Wm Delmar, 1814

AN
HISTORICAL
TOPOGRAPHICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE
ACCOUNT
OF THE
Weald of Kent.

WITH EIGHT ENGRAVINGS AND A MAP.

BY T. D. W. DEARN.

“Old ANDRED’S WEALD at length doth take her time to tell,
The changes of the world, that since her youth befell;
When yet upon her soil, scarce human foot had trode,
A place where only then the sylvans made abode;
Where, fearless of the hunt, the HART securely stood,
And every where walk’d free, a BURGER of the wood.”
Drayton’s poly-albion, Song 18.

CRANBROOK:

PRINTED FOR AND SOLD BY S. READER;
SOLD ALSO BY B. & R. CROSBY AND CO. STATIONERS’ COURT,
PATERNOSTER-RROW, LONDON; AND BY ALL THE
BOOKSELLERS IN KENT AND SUSSEX.

1814.

From the Press of Samuel Waters, Cranbrook.

WOMAN
GLOBE
VIA



TO
THOMAS LAW HODGES,
OF HEMSTED, ESQUIRE,

(ONE OF HIS MAJESTY'S JUSTICES OF THE PEACE FOR THE
COUNTY OF KENT, &c. &c.)

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE INSCRIBED

AS A TESTIMONY OF RESPECT, BY HIS

OBEDIENT AND OBLIGED,

HUMBLE SERVANT,

T. D. W. DEARN.

CRANBROOK,
Dec. 1st, 1813.

Subscribers.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER.

Amherst, Right Hon. Lord, Montreal, 2 Copies.
Austen, John, Esq. Swifts place, Cranbrook.
Austen, Rev. John, Broadford, Horsmonden.
Alexander, William, Esq. British Museum; London.
Alexander, Daniel, Esq. Blackheath.
Alexander, James, Esq. Maidstone.
Atkins, Thomas, Esq. ditto 2 Copies.
Adams, Thomas, Esq. Belgrave place, London.
Ayerst, R. G. Esq. Ashford.
Ayerst, Mr. Thomas, Hawkhurst.
Allen, Mr. Surgeon, Smarden.

Barham, Right Hon. Lord, Teston.
Balmanno, Alexander, Esq. Fowlers, Hawkhurst, 2 Copies.
Baldwin, William, Esq. Harrietsham.
Balderstone, Samuel, Esq. Canterbury.
Banks, Richard, Esq. Boys hall, Ashford.
Banks, Ralph, Esq. Rochester.
Barton, Thomas, Esq. Battle.
Bishop, Argles, Esq. Maidstone.
Bishop, George, Esq. ditto.
Bowles, William, Esq. West Malling.
Beale, Richard, Esq. Biddenden.
Brattle, Jeremiah, Esq. Tenterden.
Burton, James, Esq. Marbledon, Tunbridge.
Bunce, William, Esq. Northiam.
Belcher, Dr. Ashford.
Boys, Rev. D. Benenden.
Boys, Mr. Surveyor, Teston.
Boys, Mr. Thomas, Chatham.
Buss, Mr. William, Cranbrook.
Butler, Mr. John, ditto.
Barrow, Mr. Strood.
Bettison and Son, Library, Margate.
Bowlden, Mr. Watringbury.
Boorman, Mr. J. H. Lamberhurst.
Brown, Mr. Surveyor, Maidstone.

a

Beaumont, Mr. J. D. Maidstone.
 Bourn, Mr. H. Rye.
 Buckland, Mr. James, Tenterden.

Camden, Most Noble the Marquis of, Wilderness.
 Coleman, William, Esq. Chart place, 10 Copies.
 Conolly, Valentine, Esq. Angley house, Cranbrook.
 Campion, William, Esq. Danny, Sussex.
 Children, George, Esq. Tunbridge.
 Children, J. G. Esq. ditto.
 Children, Miss Anna, ditto.
 Cooke, Christopher, Esq. Ashgrove, Sevenoaks.
 Coast, William, Esq. ditto.
 Crow, Richard, Esq. ditto.
 Curteis, E. J. Esq. Windmill hill, near Battle.
 Curteis, George, Jun. Esq. Tenterden.
 Curteis, Rev. Whitfeld, Burwash.
 Curteis, Rev. Thomas, Tenterden.
 Coppard, Rev. W. Bradbourn park.
 Cartwright, Rev. Dr. Hollenden house, Tunbridge.
 Carlow, H. S. Esq. Rochester.
 Clarke, Mr. Surgeon, Cranbrook.
 Couchman, Mr. William, Jun. ditto.
 Carly, Mr. Samuel, ditto.
 Collens, Mr. Francis, Brenchley.
 Collens, Mr. John, Goudhurst.
 Cowtan and Colegate, Booksellers, Canterbury, 3 Copies.
 Cozens, Mr. James, Chilham.
 Coveney, Mr. Thomas, Benenden.
 Coveney, Mr. Joseph, ditto.
 Chapman, Mr. Philip, Smarden.

Dominicus, George, Esq. East Farleigh.
 Day, W. W. Esq. Hermitage, Rochester.
 Day, David H. Esq. ditto.
 Debary, Richard, Esq. Bedford place, London.
 Dyne, William, Esq. Lincolns-inn fields, ditto.
 Day, Dr. Maidstone.
 Davies, Rev. D. W. A. M. Cranbrook.
 Durham, Rev. I. G. A. B. Northiam.
 Dowthwait, Rev. W. Goudhurst.
 Dowthwait, Mr. John, Maidstone.
 Davis, Mr. W. Doctor's Commons, London.
 Dubourg, Mr. M. Engraver, Lambeth.

Diamond, Mr. Surgeon, Lamberhurst
 Dodson, Mr. James, Hastings.
 Dobel, Mr. Benjamin, Cranbrook.
 Dobell, Mr. Samuel, ditto.
 Dobell, Mr. Jesse, ditto.
 Dungey, Mr. A. Jun. ditto.
 Dakins, Mr. Bookseller, Tunbridge.

Espinasse, Isaac, Esq. Bexley.
 Elliott, Mr. John, Goudhurst.
 Elgar, Mr. William, Maidstone.

Fisher, Mr. Thomas, East India house, London.
 Fuggle, Mr. Robert, Cranbrook.

Geary, Sir William, Bart. M. P. Oxenhoath.
 Gun, Robert, Esq. Mount Kennedy, Ireland, 2 Copies.
 Grimaldi, Stacey, Esq. Brunswick square, London.
 Gregson, Jesse Esq. Moor-house, Hawkhurst.
 Giles, Netlam, Esq. New Inn, London.
 Groombridge, Stephen, Esq. Blackheath.
 Gordon, Rev. William, Speldhurst.
 Greenall, Rev. G. Christ College, Cambridge.
 Gunning, Mrs. Farndborough, Somerset.
 Garner, Mr. Library, Margate.
 Greenhill, Mr. T. B. Rolvenden.

Hodges, Thomas Law, Esq. Hemsted, 2 Copies.
 Henry, Admiral, Rolvenden.
 Head, Rev. Sir John, Bart. Wiarton.
 Hodges, Rev. H. Beckley.
 Hutton, Rev. J. A. M. Hole, Rolvenden.
 Harrison, Rev. W. B. A. M. Goudhurst.
 Harrison, Miss, Daventry.
 Hulkes, James, Esq. Tovil.
 Hulkes, Thomas E. Esq. Rochester.
 Hubbard, John Esq. Egerton place.
 Heritage, William, Esq. Whitewell, Cranbrook.
 Hughes, J. N. Esq. Maidstone.
 Hodgskin, J. B. Esq. Horsmonden.
 Harris, Mr. T. M. School House, Northiam.

Hills, Mr. W. Lymne.
Hawkins, Mr. George, Maidstone.
Haffenden, Mr. Surgeon, ditto.
Hague, Mr. John, Benenden.
Hopcroft, Mr. Ephraim, Cranbrook.

Ingram, Mr. George, Cranbrook.
Ismay, Mr. Town Sutton.

James, Sir Walter J. Bart. Bath.
Jackson, Thomas, Esq. Camberwell, Surry.
Jennings, David, Esq. Hawkhurst.
Jenkin, Charles, Esq. Northiam.
Jones, Rev. Theophilus, Frittenden.

Kingsley, T. P. Esq. Maidstone.
Kincaid, Mr. Solicitor, Cranbrook.
King, Mr. Thomas, East-bourne.
King, Mr. John, Tunbridge.

London, Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of.
Lake, Cap. Willoughby, R. N. Goudhurst.
Lambarde, Multon, Esq. Sevenoaks.
Lamprey, Stephen, Esq. Maidstone.
Larkin, Mr. Charles, Cranbrook.
Lane, Mr. W. Rolvenden.
Land, Mr. Maidstone.

Martin, General, Leeds castle.
Mercer, J. D. Esq. Hawkhurst, 2 Copies.
Mercer, Thomas, Esq. Greentrees, Hadlow.
Monypenny, James, Esq. Maytham hall, Rolvenden.
Monypenny, Robert, Esq. Merrington, ditto.
Morphett, George, Esq. Tenterden.
Mascall, Robert, Esq. Peasmarsh.
Matthews, William, Esq. Usk, Monmouth.
Mc. Donnell, Francis, Esq. ditto.
Munn, Benjamin, Esq. Halden place, Rolvenden.
Manclark, Edward, Esq. Rochester.
Monckton, Stephen, Esq. Brenchley.

SUBSCRIBERS.

Morland, W. A. Esq. Court lodge, Lamberhurst.
 Morland, Rev. H. Horsmonden.
 Morgan, Rev. Thomas, Goudhurst.
 Marriott, Mrs. Horsmonden.
 Mott, Mr. C. F. Royal Mint, London.
 Mynn, Mr. W. Goudhurst.
 Milles, Mr. Thomas, ditto.
 Medhurst, Mr. James, Halden.

Nares, Rev. Edward, A. M. Biddenden.
 Noble, Rev. Mark, F.S.A. Barming.
 Nairn, Mrs. Milkhouse, Cranbrook.
 Newington, Mr. Surgeon, Goudhurst.
 Newble, Mr. James, West Malling.
 Nash, Mr. Bookseller, Tunbridge-Wells.

Ollive, Thomas, Esq. Taywell, Goudhurst.
 Ord, Rev. Ralph, Semley, Wilts.
 Ottaway, Mr. Solicitor, Staplehurst.

Powescourt, Right Hon. Lord Viscount.
 Pope, John, Esq. Goudhurst.
 Prentis, Walter, Esq. Rochester.
 Pettman, William, Esq. Ham, near Sandwich.
 Parry, Heugh, Esq. Somers Town, London.
 Pigott, Rev. W. Foster, D. D. Wateringbury.
 Pattenson, Rev. R. C. T. Ibornden, Biddenden.
 Phillimore, Rev. Robert, Hawkhurst.
 Perigoe, Mr. Thomas, Stonehouse, ditto.
 Pethurst, Mr. Jeremiah, Seal.

Randolph, Rev. Dr. F. Prebendary of Bristol.
 Randolph, Rev. Herbert, Letcombe Bassett, Berks.
 Randolph, Miss, Bath.
 Roberts, Rev. J. Cramer, Glassenbury, Cranbrook.
 Rowlands, Rev. W. High Halden.
 Riley, William, Esq. Abbey house, Bermondsey.
 Redford, Thomas S. Esq. Hawkhurst.
 Rouse, Kirkby and Lawrence, Booksellers, Canterbury,
 3 Copies.

Rachell, Mr. George, Chart Sutton.
 Reeves, Mr. Thomas, Benenden.
 Roden, Mr. Bookseller, Hythe.

Stratford, Hon. Col. J. W. Addington place.
 Streatfield, Henry, Esq. Chidingstone.
 Scoones, William, Esq. Tunbridge.
 Scudamore, William, Esq. Maidstone.
 Scudamore, John, Esq. Russell Square, London.
 Smyth, James, Esq. Lested-lodge, Chart.
 Smyth, Clem. Taylor, Esq. ditto.
 Swatland, Stephen, Esq. Cranbrook.
 Springet, John, Esq. Maidstone.
 Springet Charles, Esq. Usk, Monmouth.
 Springet, Rev. W. H. Maidstone.
 Stonard, Rev. J. East Malling.
 Smith, Rev. J. Peasmarsh.
 Seager, Mr. S. P. Maidstone.
 Stockdale, Mr. F. W. L. East-India house, London.
 Skinner, Mr. Cranbrook.
 Siggs, Mr. George, ditto
 Simmons, Mr. John, Staplehurst.
 Spyring, Mr. Borough, Southwark.
 Sloman, Mr. East Barnet, Herts.
 Salmon, Mr. Teston.
 Sprange, Mr. Bookseller, Tunbridge-Wells.

Twisden, Sir John, Bart. Bradbourn park.
 Twisden, Lady, Jennings.
 Turner, Thomas, Esq. Court-lodge, Hunton.
 Taylor, Liberty, Esq. Maidstone.
 Topping, Charles, Esq. ditto.
 Tournay, Robert, Esq. Bodiam.
 Thomas, Rev. J. G. ditto.
 Tribe, Mr. Surgeon, Marden.
 Titford, Mr. Surgeon, Cranbrook.
 Taylor, Mr. Barnabas, Jun. ditto.
 Taylor, Mr. Thomas, ditto.
 Tress, Miss, Staplehurst.
 Turner, Mr. John, Langton-green.
 Townson, Messrs. C. and W. Booksellers, Chatham.
 Tracey, Mrs. Library, Brompton.
 Trested, Mr. Surgeon, East Malling.

Union Library, Cranbrook.

Woodgate, W. F. Esq. Tunbridge castle.
Wise, John, Jun. Esq. Maidstone.
Watson, Thomas, Esq. Staplehurst.
Weller, Robert, Esq. Rolvenden.
Winch, Richard, Esq. Elford, Hawkhurst, 4 Copies.
Walter, J. A. Esq. Greenstreet.
Walter, Stephen, Esq. Marden.
Walter, James, Esq. ditto.
Waterman, William, Esq. Tenterden.
Watts, Dr. Cranbrook.
Willis, Mr. Solicitor, Cranbrook.
Willis, Mr. Charles, ditto. ditto.
Wilmshurst, Mr. John, ditto.
Weston, Mr. Richard, ditto.
Ward, Mr. Edward, Sandhurst.
Wybourne, Mr. W. ditto.
Williams, Mr. Surgeon, Hadlow.
Wilson, Mr. Hawkhurst.
Winch, Mr. B. ditto.

Young, Mr. Surgeon, Hawkhurst.
Yates, Mr. Maidstone.

ERRATA.

- P. iv. l. 2. for *since* read *so since*
 — v. l. 19. for *Sir Roger Twiden* read *Sir Edward Doring*
 — ix. l. 4. (*note*) dele *in*
 — 14. l. 27. (*note*) for *devotaries* read *votaries*
 — 34. l. 21. (*note*) for *inconnected* read *unconnected*
 — 48. l. 32. for *have carucates* read *have five carucates*
 — 50. l. 1. for *belonging* read *belonged*
 l. 10. for *is* read *are*
 — 59. l. 16. for *consequences* read *consequences*
 — 70. l. 11. for *challenge* read *challenges*
 — 72. l. 4. (*note*) for *papel* read *papal*
 — 76. l. last, (*note*) for *ten* read *twenty*
 — 80. l. 10. for *of benedictions* read *and benedictions*
 — 81. l. 11. for *in* read *is*
 l. 21. dele *of*
 — 82. l. 12. after *established church*, add *and for such of its own members*
 as were not satisfied with infant sprinkling
 — 89. l. 1. for *if* read *of*
 — 90. l. 15. for *John Streatfield* read *of John Streatfield*
 — 103. l. last, for *Carly* read *Carey*
 — 145. l. 2. (*note*) for *there* read *three*
 — 150. l. 3. for *there is* read *there are*
 — 151. l. 8. for *encompass* read *compose*
 — 161. l. 5. for *Stephen* read *Thomas*
 — 180. l. 6. for *occupy* read *occupies*
 — 184. l. 10. for *encompass* read *compose*
 l. 21. for *ornamented* read *ornamental*
 — 191. l. 13. for *lod* read *old*
 l. 14. for *reference* read *in reference*
 — 209. l. 2. dele *which*
 — 217. l. 13. for *John Simson, Esq. one of the representatives in the late*
 and present parliaments for the town of Maidstone and a ban-
 ker in London, read *John Simpson, Esq. late high sheriff*
 of this county
 — 237. l. 27. for *Sussex* read *Norfolk*
 — 243. l. 19. for *Henry II.* read *Henry (II).*
 — 256. l. 8. for *monument for* read *monument of*
 — 268. l. 6. and 7. read *who is put in by the quarter sessions* as a parenthesis.
 — 269. l. 12. for *on embassies* read *on other embassies*
 — 272. l. 28. for *capellarius* read *capellanus*

A MAP of the



Published Dec 1, 1998 by S. Hadden, Hadden-Hunter, Connecticut

Introduction.

BOUNDARY.—The boundary of the WEALD OF KENT, as deduced from the best authorities, may be thus described: Beginning at Adlington on the margin of Romney-marsh eastward, it extends along the top of the Rag-stone hill above the churches of Kingsnorth, Great Chart, Pluckley, Sutton, Linton, Hunton, Yalding, and across the Medway by Teston and Wateringbury, leaving the former to the right: from thence by Herts-hill, River-hill and Ide-hill, to Well-street on the borders of Surry, and then following the boundary lines of Surry and Sussex on the west and south, embraces the Isle of Oxney, and extends along the margin of Romney-marsh; forming its northern confine. Though this is now the commonly received opinion as to the limits of that part of the WEALD within the county of Kent, there are still some who maintain a contrary opinion, nor will it appear strange that a difference should prevail considering the imperfect data on which any opinion can be founded. The mention made of it by the earliest writers is by no means satisfactory, their assertions evidently resting not on public and authentic records, or well grounded research, but on oral tradition and vulgar report alone. The anglo-saxon chronicler *Aethelwulf*,* and after him *Henry of*

* *Aethelwulf Menevensis*, (that is, Aethel of St. David's) Bishop of Shireburn, in the reign of Alfred the great. He was born in Pembrokeshire in South Wales, and educated in the monastery of St. David's by the Archbishop Aethelwulf, to whom according to Leland he was related. In this monastery

Huntingdon* and others, assert that the WEALD extended one hundred and twenty miles towards the west, and thirty miles in breadth towards the north, reckoning from Winchelsea in Sussex; and that it embraced a portion of the several counties of Kent, Surry, Sussex and Hants; but admitting this statement to be strictly correct, still the exact line of demarcation is left uncertain and indefinite. Whatever authority we may be inclined to attach to the testimony of Asserius in matters of which he might be capable of determining, we must do violence to common sense, to admit without consideration his testimony in this particular; that he was one of the best informed men of his time may be presumed from the notice taken of him by Alfred, yet he might, and we have good grounds for supposing he was, incapable of deciding with precision the exact limits of this part of the royal demesne; and the reason for this conclusion is simple and obvious. Notwithstanding the

he became a Monk, and by his assiduous application soon acquired universal fame as a person of profound learning and great abilities. Alfred the munificent patron of genius, about the year 880, sent for him to court. The King was then at Dean in Wiltshire. He was so charmed with Asser that he made him his preceptor and companion. As a reward for his services he appointed him abbot of two or three different monasteries: and at last promoted him to the episcopal see of Shireburn where he died and was buried in the year 910. He was, says Pitts, a man of a happy genius, wonderful modesty, extensive learning, and great integrity of life. He is said to have been principally instrumental in persuading the King to restore the university of Oxford to its pristine dignity and lustre. He wrote *De Vita et rebus gestis Alfredi*, London. 1574, published by Archbishop Parker in the old Saxon character, at the end of *Walsinghami Hist.* Francf. 1602 fol. and at Oxford in 1722, 8vo. Many other works are ascribed to him by Gale, Bale and Pitts; but all, says the Editor of the Ency. Brit.) doubtful.

* Henry of Huntingdon, canon of Lincoln, and afterwards Archdeacon of Huntingdon. His works are 1. A History of England brought down to the year 1154. 2. A continuation of that of Bede. 3. Chronological tables of the Kings of England. 4. A small treatise on the contempt of the World. 5. Several books of Epigrams and love verses, and 6. A poem on Herbs; the whole of which are written in Latin.

great amelioration of society and the rapid advances of learning in the time of ALFRED, yet the known state of science in that reign precludes the supposition, that the extent of this district could have been laid down from *actual survey*,* and with no reason can such evidence be admitted on any other authority; this position therefore of Asserius must have been highly conjectural and most probably very wide of the truth; In fact, all that we learn of this historian is, that the WEALD was then of very considerable extent, but whether on the partition of the kingdom into counties, the western part of it was allotted to the county of Hampshire or not, is a point not so easily decided; but our business respects only its limits in this county, and to that we shall proceed. *Lambarde*; the earliest of our Kentish historians has the following remarks; "Newe then we are come to the Weald of Kent, which (after the common opinion of men of our time) is contained within very streight and narrowe limits, notwithstanding that in times paste, it was reputed of such exceeding bignesse, that it was thought to extende into Sussex, Surry and Hamshyre;" and further, speaking of its former condition and the slow but gradual encroachments made on it by the industry of man, he says "And hereout springeth the diversitie of opinions touching the true limits of this Weald: some men affirming it to beginne at one place, and some at another, whereas, in my fantasie, there can be assigned, none other certaine boundes thereof, then suche as we have before recited out of the ancient hystories" (alluding to the vague and indefinite observations of Asserius Menevensis, &c. before mentioned): "For even as in the olde time, being then a mere so-

* The simplicity of early times, and the total ignorance of the art of measuring land is proved by the expedient adopted in the exchange of property between Richard Fitz-Gilbert and Lanfranc Archbishop of Cantebury, two centuries later than the time of Alfred. See under *Tunbridge*.

litude, and on no part inhabited it might easily be circumscribed: since, being continually from time to time made lesse by industrie it could not long have any standing or permanent termes. And therefore, what so ever difference in common report there be, as touching the same, for as muche as it is nowe (thanked be God) in manner wholly replenished with people, a man maye more reasonably mainteine, that there is no Weald at all, then certainly pronounce, eyther where it beginneth, or maketh an ende.”

The MS. in the Surrenden library, written by the ill-fated Sir Edward Dering in the time of Charles I. (about half a century subsequent to Lambard) states, as probable, that “the Weald extended eastward from Winchelsea into Kent much after this manner; and to have had in our county these boundaries; viz. from Kent-Hatch over against Limesfield in Surry, to Ide-hill, River-hill, Mole-hill, Peckham-hill, Yalding-hill, Cocks-heath, Bocton, Monchensie, Sutton, Ulcomb, Bocton Malherbe, Egerton, Pevington, Pluckley, Great Chart, King’s-noth, *Munford*, and so to the side of the hill of the Marsh, Aldington, Bonnington, Bilsington, Orlaston, Ham, Warehorne, Kenardington and Appledore, and thence to the place where the River Rother opened into the sea at old Winchelsea; and he (Sir Edward) thinks that within these bounds towards Sussex, all is to be accounted the Weald, from the top of those hills, including their sides and descents.”* And yet directly afterwards he states another opinion, so far contradictory of the first, as it goes to change the northern boundary altogether, removing it from the Quarry to the Chalk-hills; and then reasons on it from wrong premises, but evidently not to his own satisfaction, as he con-

* “It hath been found, says Markham, by diverse late veridicts, that the Weald reaches from *Winchelsea*, and that hill there, unto the top of *River-hill*; and neither farther towards London, nor shorter towards Tunbridge.”
Enrichment of the Weald of Kent.

cludes his remarks with the following observation "that *one* of these two rows of hills must unexceptionably be the northern bounds of the Weald of Kent." The latter opinion is founded on these words of Lambarde: "if a man, minding to passe through Kent toward London, should arrive and make his first step on land in Romney-marsh; he shall rather finde good grasse under foote, then holesome aire above the head: againe, if he step over the hylles, and come into the Weald, &c." But, says Dr. Harris, this really proves against his opinion; because the hills, which a traveller, bound from Romney-marsh towards London must go over, can't be Folkstone, Wyedowns, &c. unless he will go backwards; but they must be those about Aldington, Bilsington, &c. in his direct way thither, which are the *former*, and much more *probable* bounds of the Weald of Kent. Though the preceding conclusion of Dr. Harris be just, yet a much stronger argument in favor of it, might have been drawn even from Lambarde himself, as will be shewn when we proceed to consider how far the opinions advanced by Sir Roger Twisden, are consistent with reason and evidence, for with the hypothesis of Asserius, we have at present no concern. The only point to be determined is, *whether the QUARRY, or the CHALK hills are to be considered the northern boundary of the Weald of Kent*, and to determine this, there really appears no difficulty, even setting aside the legal decisions, which have uniformly, we believe, been in favor of the opinion here adopted.

The opinion, *that extends the Weald to the CHALK hills*, has nothing like an argument to support it, for, as observed above, what has been advanced in favor of it by Sir Edward Dering, so far from supporting, is decidedly contradictory to such a supposition; as will sufficiently appear by referring to what immediately precedes and follows the extract above given.*

* It stands thus in Lambarde. "And therefore very reasonable is their

But from a desire of withholding nothing, that can in any measure give color to it, we shall here state another ground

conceits, which doe imagine, that Kent hath three steps, or degrees, of which the first (say they) offereth *wealth without health*, the second giveth both *wealth and health*, and the third affordeth *health only, and no wealth*. For, if a man, intending to passe through Kent towards London, should arise, and make his first step on land in Romney-marsh, he shall rather finde good grasse under foote, then wholesome aire above the head; againe, if he step over the hylles, and come into the Weald, he shall have at once the commodities, bothe (*Caeli et Soli*) of the aire and the earth: but if he leave that, and climb the next step of hylles, that are between him, and London, he shall have woode and corne for his wealth, and (towards the increase of his health) if he seeke, he shall finde, (*famem in agro lapidoso*) a good stomake in the stonie field." These words of Lambarde may at first sight appear to warrant, in some measure, the opinion founded on them by Sir Edward Dering, but though willing to pay all reasonable deference to his authority, still there is too much inconsistency in the passage before us, to entitle it to adoption. Lambarde no doubt meant to set his traveller down somewhere at the eastern part of Romney-marsh (for unless we suppose this, the position cannot be maintained at all) with his face probably towards London, and the hills between Hythe and Aldington on his right; which, if he step over and come into the Weald (no doubt meaning the low lands between those hills and the great range of chalk hills) he shall, say he, have at once the commodities both of the air and the earth, or in other words, shall meet with a rich and productive soil, and a pure and wholesome air: but, he adds, if he leave that and climb the next step of hills (evidently meaning the chalk hills in the direction of Stowting and Wye) he shall find abundance of corn and wood, and a good appetite if he seek it. Let us now consider how far Lambarde has proved the conceits reasonable, on which his remarks are made. According to this conceits there are three steps, one is wealthy but not healthy, the next is healthy but not wealthy, and the other is both healthy and wealthy: now turn to his explanation and you will see that he describes one part as unhealthy (the marsh) and the other two, as being both healthy and wealthy; but what it may be asked is become of that part which is stated to be healthy, but not wealthy? it will be said perhaps that he has only given the Weald a better character than common judgment allowed it: so, instead of attempting to prove the vulgar conceits reasonable, he was merely seeking occasion to advance his own: but this interpretation will not do; the truth is, that both Lambarde and his traveller

for such opinion, and which, if any credit could consistently be given to the accuracy of the statement made by the early chroniclers, might at first sight appear to have some little weight, namely that the Weald extended thirty miles northward from Winchelsea, yet, as a proof how little validity has been (and ought to be) attached to such authority, it has never, that we know of, been brought forward as an argument in favor of this position. To measure from Winchelsea northward in a *straight line* would extend the limits of the Weald even beyond the range of CHALK HILLS, but if we take the *nearest road* from Winchelsea in this direction, its boundary will as nearly fall on the QUARRY HILLS; now, which of these modes should we adopt? or rather should we not imme-

have been steering too *northerly* a course. This trifling variation, as it may be deemed, is however fatal to his authority, and may be urged as an argument in favor of that opinion, which confines the Weald to the Quarry Hill; for as it is universally admitted that, by the part mentioned as *only* *healdly*, is meant the WEALD; so Lambard by getting between the Quarry and Chalk hills, turned his back on it; and therefore, no wonder he stumbled on a country which would not answer the description given of it in the vulgar adage. And beside this inconsistency, there is another, no less important; the word *step* is used alike for the hills themselves and for the land between them; how this is to be reconciled let the advocates for this opinion determine, but it will require no small ingenuity to render the whole consistent. After all, if this description of *Lambards* and his account of the Weald generally had been ever so clear and consistent, it ought to have no weight with us, as not even the shadow of a reason is offered in support of it; in one place he asserts that, "there can be assigned, none other *certaine* boundes thereof, then such as we have before recited out of the *adulient* histories;" and shortly after observes, "a man maye *met* reasonably mainteine, that there is no Weald at all, then *certainly* pronounce yther where it beginneth, or maketh an ende:" now if to these two observations, we add his elucidations of the *very reasonable conceits*, about the steps, we shall have collected into one focus the substance of his remarks on the Weald; but we must leave any further interpretation of them. The object here aimed at, is to shew the fallacy of any reasoning grounded on the authority of this author, in favor of the opinion that extends the Weald to the Chalk hills, and this we trust has been fully accomplished.

diately dismiss both, as arising solely from the mere unsupported assertion of those who could know but very little of the matter, and who, most probably considered it, as it really was, a thing unworthy of serious consideration and enquiry; for is it reasonable to suppose, that at a time when this district was of so little importance as scarcely to have had any known owner, that much, or any pains should have been taken to determine with accuracy even its length and breadth, and while so many points of consequence in the history of those times, were either slightly touched on, or provokingly disregarded altogether?—Before Sir Edward's first conjecture is taken into consideration; it may not be improper to state here another opinion that has been advanced on this subject, though on what authority is not known, that the pilgrim's road, which beginning at Croydon in Surrey, entered this county at Westerham, taking a direction to Chevening and thence over Wrotham-hill to Rochester, and along the high road to Canterbury, marks the boundary of the Weald northward, and determines the tythe of wood: the importance of this notion may be collected from what has been already said and what follows.

In support of Sir Edward Dering's first statement, which makes the rag-stone hills the northern boundary of this district, many arguments readily present themselves, with one of the most important he has himself furnished us; that, within the bounds here laid down, scarce any remains of antiquity have been found; and it may be added, that within these limits, history is silent as to any settlement of man, prior to the conquest, with the exception of the Roman station, *Ande-rida*, and those of the Danes in the neighbourhood of Appledore (anno 893); both on its frontiers. On the contrary between the Quarry and Chalk hills, many Roman, British, and Saxon remains have been found* and there is abundant reason

* At Ightham the remains of a camp supposed either Roman or British,

to believe that these parts were not only partially but generally peopled long before the conquest. Another argument may be drawn from the termination of the names of places here, which as Dr. Harris justly observes, "relate to *woods* and *low situations*; such as *Den*, *Hyrst* or *Hurst*, *Ford*, *Well*, &c. but scarce any express the habitation of men there, or the situation of towns, &c. such as *Chester*, *Burgh*, *Don* or *Dun*, *Thorp*, *Ton*, *Wic*, *Hall* or *Ham*. And to this rule of judging there are but few exceptions, though some there are." * Yet even these exceptions are strongly corroborative of the opinion that confines the Weald to the Quarry hills, which opinion is still further strengthened by the following passage from Lambarde, (whose authority in this instance is really important) "I thinke verely, says he, that it cannot be shewed out of the auncient chronicles, that there is remayning in Weald of Kent, or Sussex, any one monument of great antiquitie.† (Peram. p. 169).

b

At Allington, a castle (called the castle of the Medway) in the time of the Saxons, which was destroyed by the Danes. At Leeds, a castle in the time of Ethelbert II. and probably a Roman station from the antiquities found there. Maidstone supposed by Camden in the *Vagiacæ* mentioned by Antoninus in his 2d Itin. in which work, Dr. Gale observes, that coins of the Romans have been found at Newington near Hythe, and at Stowting, &c.

* Instances of some of these latter terminations (expressive of the habitations of men), are numerous *between* the Quarry and Chalk hills; among them are the following; Cheriton, Newington, Horton, Kennington, Harrietsham, Lenham, Otham, Offham, Wrotham, and Ightham, &c. Within the other boundary we have the following; Bonnington, Boughton, Kennardington, Linton, Sutton, Wittersham, Henton, Egerton, Aldington, Bilsington and Peckham East and West; but observe that the latter are invariably on the *borders* of the Weald, and consequently furnish a powerful argument in favor of our hypothesis.

† How this agrees with the extension of the boundary to the Chalk hills, will be readily seen; and the following passage from the same author, clears

This first position of Sir Edward Dering, then, if not absolutely established, is supported by such plausible arguments, that until they can be *proved* unfounded, it should be maintained; it is admitted as highly reasonable by Dr. Harris and Mr. Hasted, and though contradictory opinions are still maintained by interested persons, yet we believe, that nothing like an opposing argument has been published since Sir Edward's time; or any thing transpired which can in the least operate against it.

NAME, EARLY STATE, AND CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS CONDITION.—By the Saxon word *Weald* or *Walda*,* is meant a woody tract; hence, the robbers and other persons of dissolute and abandoned life, with which such places were usually infested, were named *Weald Genga*; and if associated in companies *Weald Hlothas*. In very early times it was called *Andred*, *Andredslege*, *Andredswald* and *Andredsbergh*, probably, after the Roman station *Anderida*. The Britons termed it *Coit-Andred*, the great or large wood; and during the Saxon heptarchy it was entitled *Salutis Regalis*, *Sylva Communis*, &c. (the royal chase, or common wood). Though the Weald, as early as the Saxon heptarchy was divided into Dens, Denberæ or Wealdbera; and grants of *pannage* for hogs within the Weald, were added to royal grants and lordships elsewhere; yet there is no reason to believe that prior to the conquest, any independent manors existed here, or that it was parceled into parishes, until that time. In the

ly demonstrates the uncertainty attached to the subject in his time: "and yet" says he "if question in lawe should fortune to be moved, concerning the limits of the Weald, (as in deede it maye happen upon the statute of woods, and otherwise) I am of opinion, that the same ought to be decided by the verdite of twelve men, grounded upon the common reputation of the countrey there aboutes, and not by any other means." Per. 170.

* Hence, according to Dr. Harris, came the old barbarous latin word *guilde*, a wood or grave.

donations of lands lying out of the Weald, to the convents of Canterbury and Rochester, and other religious houses, there is frequent mention made of pannage for hogs in Andred. If a pradium or a possession were given to any one out of the Weald, in the nature of what we call now a manor, or a lordship, it was usually the way to accommodate it by an additional grant of a *common of pannage*, which was mentioned in the deed; and after, it had a limitation to one or more Dens. Thus in the grant of King Offa, of Frindsbury and Æatlingham to the priory of Rochester (anno 764) there is added towards the end: *Adjectis in Denberis in communi saltu, hoc est Weald se Westra; viz. Billington, Gealchbyras, Meosden and Rindigsell.* And the same kind of gift is made by King Egbert to the same convent, in his grant of Halling.”*

“And as the learned SPELMAN shews from Domesday book;† these dens were of no determinate bigness nor extent: *In Tarentforde viij Denæ Parvæ, and iij Magnæ. Episcopus Basocensis in Manerio de Ow habit tres denas quæ valient xx sol.* And in another place cited by him are these words: *et tres denæ de Sylva reddunt xxx porcos.* The word *Dena* comes from the Saxon *Dene*, which signifies a valley, low enclosed place, or den. And doubtless they were sometimes enclosures taken out of the great royal wood or Weald, and granted by the sovereign to particular convents, places or persons. For perhaps at first the liberty of *pannage* was granted in common; but very great trouble and difficulty arising, in finding out their own hogs, it is likely they got leave by degrees to inclose and divide it into partitions within a hedge: and these partitions or enclosures doubtless were what is above mentioned, under the name of *Dens, Denberies,*

b 2

* Text. *Rollens. fo. 126 and 128* as quoted by Dr. Harris:

† *In Verbo Dena, in Glomar.*

or *Wealdberies*; which had also particular names assigned them, to distinguish them one from another, as appears by very numerous instances in our old charters. And no doubt but in process of time also, they cultivated and tilled some part of the land within the districts of their *Denberies*: and these being dependent on manors elsewhere situated, did not, when let out to tenants, exempt them from paying services and customs, in proportion to their tenancies.¹ This opinion is confirmed by the following passage of Somner (*Roman ports and forts*, p. 111 and 117). "Albeit there were of old no manors in the Weald, yet the lands lying there, when once cultivated and manured, being appendant to and depending on manors elsewhere; the tenants in respect of, and proportion to their holdings and tenancies, might be and were lyable to the lord of the manor whereof they held, for services and customs, as other tenants elsewhere; for beside, *fealty, suit of court, and reliefs* there, among other local customs and services heretofore obtaining, there do frequently occur, *gavel swine, scot ale, pannage, gate penny, summer-hus silver, corrody, and danger*.* Thus, he continues, the Weald as other places, yielded quit-rents, customs, and services of old, as

* 1st. *Gavel Swine*, a custom so called when they paid swine in kind; but if redeemed with money, then it was called *Swine Penny and Swine Money*; and was a rent for the lord's leave and sufferance to his tenant, that he might keep and feed swine of his own, or take in other men's to feed within his denbery. Thus also there was *Gavel bord, Gavel timber and Gavel refter*; in order to repair the lord's house, charged upon the woodlands, after the agreement above mentioned, to take a rent of assize in money for the wood.

2d. *Scot Ale*, which was a *shott* or contribution from the tenants, to make a provision of ale, to entertain the lord or his bayliff or beadle, whenever he held a *parrock*; i. e. a court which was anciently held in the Weald: and was something like the *manmote* in the forest: here an account was taken of the swine gavel, and swine money, due from the tenants; and of other customary services. And our author (Somner) judges probably enough, that the word *paddock* is but a corruption from *paroc*; which word

well as at present, and if the particulars above mentioned be not evidence enough, he adds this further to put it out of all dispute: "In the reigns of King Edward III. and King Richard II. the Archbishops of Canterbury, and the prior of Christ

paddock not only signifies a particular place in the *Blean* wood in *East Kent*, but is often used for a small park about a gentleman's house. This *scot* also seems to be the same with what *Bracton* calls *fieldale*, perhaps for *fieldale*, or *gildale*.

3d. *Pannage*, in latin *pessona*; this was the profit arising from taking in hogs, to be fed and fatted with the *mast* of the place. And out of this pannage, tythe was in those days usually paid.

4th. *Gate Penny*. This was a rent which the tenant paid for the liberty of one or more gates for his ingress and egress to and from his own, by the lord's land.

5th. *Summer hus-silver*. This he proves from a passage in the old *customale* of Newington near Sittingbourn; where are these words: *Homines quoque de walda debent unam DOMUM ad STRALEM, quod anglie dicitur SUMMERHUS, aut 20 sol. dare*. For it was the custom then it seems, for the lords or proprietors of these *dens* in the *Weald*, to go thither in the summer time, to take care of, and to dispose of their pannage; and in order to their better accommodation, some kind of house or habitation was to be provided for them, by their tenants, or else a rent was to be paid in lieu of it, in money: which was the *summerhus-silver*.

6th. *Corredy*. This was a provision of diet, as the other was of lodging; for their lord's coming on such an occasion; as is now the custom when fellows of colleges, or prebendaries of churches, visit their manors and keep their courts. Thus in an old *customal* formerly belonging to *Ickham* manor in Kent. *Et in quolibet anno debet invenire corredium, et omnia necessaria domino cum veniret videre personam, vel famulo ejus*.

7th. *Danger*. This is thus explained in an account-roll of Charing manor in this county, A. D. 1230. *Et de xxvj. sol. et viij. den. de waldis ut possint arrare et seminare tempore pessone sine damno archiepiscopi*. For the tenant in the *Weald* could not plough or sow his land in pannage time without the lord's leave, for fear of endangering the lord in his pannage; and therefore it was called *Lef-gavel*, *Lefo-rent*, *Lefo-service* and *Lef-silver*. In the *customal* of Tenham manor it is said, *Tenentis de Waldis non possunt arrare terras suas ab equinoctio autumnali usque ad festum St. Martinis sine licentia sive fuerit persona sive non et vocatur Lysfyeld*. Harris's Hist. p. 347 and 348.

church, among other such like lords or owners of the Wealdish Dennes; finding themselves aggrieved by their tenants there, as also by others, in wasting and making havoc of their woods, which in and by former feofments they had expressly reserved from their tenants to themselves, besides *fealty, suit of court, &c.* They, I say, in order to quit and rid themselves of further care and trouble about their woods, entered into a composition with their tenants; and for a new annual rent of assize (generally the same with what was paid before) made the wood over to them by indenture of feofment in perpetuity, either to be cut down, or left standing at the tenant's choice: reserving still their old or wonted rent, and all their former services, except *pannage* and *danger*; which now upon parting with the wood, there was no longer any reason to require. And ever since that time, the interests of the lords so compounding hath been taken off, as to the wood itself; and nothing left remaining but so much rent of assize, the new and the old, with the former services. And many such compositions between the Archbishop and convent aforesaid, and their respective tenants, Mr. Somner saith, he had seen."

The WEALD was of old a desert and a waste, and neither planted, (cultivated) nor peopled; but filled only with herds of deer and droves of swine; forming, according to Somner, a part of the demesne of the crown; no mention being made of it in early times, but in royal *Landbocs*, or donations: but at what period the customs and services above mentioned had their origin, it must be difficult at this remote period to determine with any degree of certainty, yet it is most probable they had their rise soon after the conquest. Lambarde indeed has some observations* on the subject, which are supposed to

* After observing, that it cannot be proved, there are any monuments of great antiquity within the Weald of Kent or Sussex, he thus proceeds: "And truly this thing I myself have observed, in the auncient rentalles and sur-vices, of the possessions of Christ-church Canterbury, that in the rehearrell

be contradictory of the above statement by Mr. Somner,* but they are chargeable, either, with positive inconsistency, or at least, with much ambiguity; it should however be observed that neither of them refers to any precise period, therefore much is still left to conjecture; but as these customs are proved to have been established, at least, as early as the reign of Edward III. it would be a useless waste of time to prosecute the enquiry further.

In this wood, (the Weald) Lambarde observes, "Sigbert, a King of West Sex, was done to death by this occasion following. About the year after the incarnation of Christ, 755, this Sigbert succeeded Cuthred his cousine in the kingdom of the west Saxons, and was so puffed up with the pride of his dominion (mightely enlarged by the prosperous successes of his predecessour) that he governed without feare of God, or care of man, making lust his lawe, and mischief his minister:

of the olde rentes and services, due by the tenauntes dwelling without the Weald, the entrie is commonly after this forme, *de redditu vij. s. vj. d. De viginti mis. j. d. De gallinis, et benerth. § xvj. d. Summa viij. s. xj. d. quieti redditus.* But when they come to the tenauntes inhabiting within the Wealdy countrey, then the stile and intitling, is first, *Redditus de Walda*, then after that followeth, *De tenementis Joñis at stile in loose. iij. s. iiij. d.* Without shewing for what auncient service, for what manner of custome, or for what speciall cause, the same rent grew due and payable, as in the first stile or entrie is expressed. Whereupon I gather, that although the proprietie of the Weald, was at the firste belonging to certaine known owners, as well as the rest of the countrey, yet was it not then allotted into tenancies, nor manured like unto the residue: but that even as men were contented to inhabite it, and by peecemeale to rid it of the wood, and to break it up with the ploughe: so this latter rent (differing from the former bothe in quantitie and qualitie, as being greater than the other, and yealded rather as recompence for fearme, then as a quit rent for any service) did long after by little and little take its beginning: Per. p. 169. and 170.

§ Benerth, is the service which the tenant doth with his cart and plough.

* See Harris's Hist. p. 347.

where upon one Cumbra, (an Earle and counselour) at the lamentable suite of the commons, moved him to consideration: but Sigbert, disdaining to be directed, commaunded him most dispitefully to be slayne: here at the nobilitie and commons were so much offended, that assembling for the purpose, they with one assent deprived him of his crowne and dignitie, and he (fearing worse) fled into the wood, where after a season, a poore hogheard, sometime servant to Cumbra, found him in a place, which the Saxon hystories call *Prifetsfode*, and knowing him to be the same that had slaine his master, slue him also without all manner of mercy." *

The early inhabitants of this district were necessarily placed in the same civil condition, as those of the other parts of the kingdom at the same period, enjoying all the advantages and participating in all the inconveniences of a feudal government, a system of civil policy ill calculated to promote the quiet and happiness of society. According to the principles of the feudal law the King was the supreme lord of the lapped property, and all possessions being held either directly or indirectly of him, were consequently held in some measure conditionally, still considered as a *fee* or *benefice*, for which, the baron was engaged in stated services to the crown, as the vassal was to his baron. The vassal was bound to defend his lord, and the

* Peram. p. 176. It is thus related by Hume. "His death (Cudred's) made way for Sigbert, his kinsman, who governed so ill that his people rose in an insurrection and dethroned him, crowning Cenulph in his stead. The exiled prince found a refuge with Duke Cumbran, governor of Hampshire; who, that he might add new obligations to Sigbert, gave him many salutary counsels for his future conduct, accompanied with some reprehensions for the past. But these were so much resented by the ungateful prince, that he conspired against the life of his protector, and treacherously murdered him. After this infamous action, he was forsaken by all the world; and skulking about in the wilds and forests, was at last discovered by a servant of Cumbran's, who instantly took revenge upon him for the murder of his master. Hist. of England, vol. I. p. 55.

latter was obliged, at the head of his vassals to fight in defence of the King and his kingdom. But besides these military services, others were imposed of a civil nature, which were more constant and durable. Yet though some similarity existed in the obligations from the vassal to his baron, and in those due from the baron to the King; from the nature of such governments the vassal necessarily fell into a greater subordination to his lord, than the latter to his monarch: the loose police, incident to the feudal constitution, maintained a perpetual, though secret hostility between the several members of the state; and the vassals found no means of securing themselves against the injuries to which they were continually exposed, but by closely adhering to their chief, and falling into a submissive dependance upon him.

If the feudal government was so little favorable to the true liberty, even of the military vassal, it was still more destructive of the independance and security of the other members of the state, or what, in a proper sense, we call the people. A great part of them were *serfs*, and lived in a state of absolute slavery or villainage: the other inhabitants of the country paid their rents in services, which were in a great measure arbitrary; and they could expect no redress of injuries, in a court of barony, from men who thought they had a right to oppress and tyrannise over them. The towns were situated either within the demesnes of the King or the lands of the great barons, and were almost entirely subjected to the absolute will of their master: and if any merchant or manufacturer rose to any degree of opulence, he found himself but the more exposed to injuries, from the envy and avidity of the military nobles. Beside the barons, there was another class of military tenants, who held *immediately* of the crown, the tenants *in capite* by Knight's service, whose tenures were supported by a title equally honorable with the others, and who formed a

body considerably more numerous. The vassals of a Baron were by their tenure immediately dependant on him,* owed attendance at his court, and paid all their duty to the King, through that dependance which their lord was obliged by his tenure to acknowledge to his sovereign and superior. Their land comprehended in the barony, was represented in parliament by the Baron himself, who was supposed, according to the fictions of the feudal law, to possess the direct property of it, and it would have been deemed incongruous to give it any other representation. They stood in the same capacity to him, that he and the other Barons did to the King: the former were peers of the barony; the latter were peers of the realm: the vassals possessed a subordinate rank within their district; the Baron enjoyed a superior dignity in the great assembly: they were in some degree his companions at home; he the King's companion at court. It appears from Domesday, that the greatest boroughs were, at the time of the conquest, scarcely more than country villages; and that the inhabitants lived in entire dependance on the King or great Lords, and were of a station little better than servile. They were not then so much as incorporated, they formed no community; were not regarded as a body politic; and being really nothing but a number of low dependant tradesmen, living without any particular civil tie in neighbourhood together, they were incapable of being represented in the states of the kingdom. Even in France, a country which made more early advances in arts and civility than England, the first corporation is sixty years posterior to the conquest under the Duke of Normandy; and the reckoning of these communities was an invention of Louis le Gros, in order to free the people from

* This also applies to the vassals of the inferior *mesne* lords, the tenants *in capite* by Knight's service: these last in common with the barons were entitled to sit in the general councils of the nation, and enjoyed the same common privileges.

the slavery under the lords, and to give them protection, by means of certain privileges and a separate jurisdiction. An ancient French writer calls them a new and wicked device, to procure liberty to slaves, and encourage them in shaking off the dominion of their masters. Besides possessing the advantages of birth, riches, civil powers and privileges, the nobles and gentlemen alone were armed, a circumstance which gave them a mighty superiority, in an age when nothing but the military profession was honorable, and when the loose execution of the laws gave so much encouragement to open violence, and rendered it so decisive in all disputes and controversies. The barons, during the reign of feudal tyranny, considered themselves as sovereigns within their territories; they had the power, with the King's consent, (which it was not difficult to obtain) to exact talliages even from the free citizens who lived within their barony; and as their necessities made them rapacious, their authority was usually found to be more oppressive and tyrannical than that of the sovereign: they were ever engaged in hereditary or personal animosities or confederacies with their neighbours, and often gave protection to all desperate adventurers and criminals who could be useful in serving their violent purposes: the examples of sordid and mercenary extortion, furnished by their prince, were but too faithfully copied, and all their good and bad offices, their justice and injustice, were equally put to sale.*

Such then was the general state of civil society, during the Anglo-Norman government, and the prevalence of the feudal system; and though some amelioration in after-times took place in the condition of the *people*, yet many badges of former slavery and customs inimical to their just liberties, were preserved even till a very late period of our history. † When

c 2

* Hume, 'On the Feudal and Anglo-Norman government and manners.'

† Lambarde says, "It is agreed by all men, that there were never any

we revert to these dark and barbarous ages, and see the villainy of one part of mankind, and the brutal ignorance and folly of the other, we naturally turn with disgust from the loathsome picture and exultingly rejoice that the memorials of feudal tyranny and human degradation, if not wholly lost, are so softened by the lapse of time and the progress of civilization, as no longer to violate our feelings, but in the retrospect of what we were. He who can look back to these times, without disgust, or on the blessings we now enjoy, with indifference, must be devoid of sense and feeling.

The revolution (of 1688) forms a new epoch in the constitution, which, while it has been productive of consequences highly advantageous to the people, has given such an ascendant to popular principles as has put the nature of the English constitution beyond all controversy. And it may be justly affirmed, without any danger of exaggeration, that we, in this island, have ever since enjoyed, if not the best system of government, at least the most entire system of liberty, that was ever known amongst mankind.*

bondmen (or villaines, as the law calleth them) in Kent (p. 11). And again p. 413, "It appeareth, by claime made in our auncient treatise, that the bodyes of all Kentishe persons be of free condition." These opinions have, in latter times been generally adopted by the vulgar; but as far as relates to the times of feudal government, are decidedly erroneous. On the first of these passages it is necessary to observe, that the words *villain* and *bondmen* are not synonymous. They were both in a degree servile and dependant, it is true, yet an essential difference existed in their situations with respect to the Lord. As the Lord was personally and immediately bound in certain and positive services to *his* superior, and the villain to him, so the bondman was more immediately bound in duty to the latter; he was his servant and consequently placed in the lowest and most degraded condition in the scheme of feudal government. And to prove that there were both villains and bondmen (*villani et bordarii*) not only in the Weald but generally throughout the county, it is only necessary to refer the reader to the record of Domesday, where he will find ample evidence of the fact.

* Hume vol. VIII. p. 231. The Rev. David Simpson also, in his

From this view of the *civil* state, let us turn our attention to the *religious* condition of society during the same period. The extreme ignorance in which the great body of the people were kept by the policy of the church of Rome, for a period of nearly five centuries subsequent to the conquest; and the imminent danger of violent persecution to which men were liable, in opposing the interests of the clergy, naturally produced an abject submission to the authority of the church, and for the most part, a superstitious veneration of its pretended miracles and power. To secure a unity of faith, rites, and ceremonies, every mean that interest could devise was alternately employed to rivet the chains which imposture had forged, and engage the blind and stupid conformity of mankind: and as long as men could be kept in this state of ignorance, the arts of the Romish church prevailed, and their influence remained unshaken. But on the revival of learning and the introduction

Plea for Religion bears the following testimony to the excellency of the English constitution.

“The world has now existed near six thousand years; and we who live in the present period are favored with the experience of all former ages. During those ages every kind of government has been tried. And it is found that every kind of government has its peculiar advantages and disadvantages. To guard against the inconveniences peculiar to each, the wisdom of *Tacitus* conceived, that a mixed form of government consisting of *King, Lords and Commons*, if it were practicable, would be the most perfect; but yet he could not conceive such a government to be possible. The British government however, has long reduced this idea, by him deemed impossible, to practice: and it should really seem, not only from our own experience in this country, but from the conduct of the *Americans* in forming their constitution, and from the conduct of the *French* in forming theirs, that *three* estates, to act as checks one upon another, form the most perfect system of government human wisdom can contrive for the happiness of man. The *Americans* have two houses and a president, who is the same as our King, only called by another name: and the *French*, during their late sanguinary revolution, had two estates, and five directors, who occupied the place of our King and his privy council. So that after all their ex-

hurtful to the peace and happiness of mankind." * But this is merely the observation of a philosopher, (in the common acceptance of the term) whose views extended not beyond the present scene of things, though strictly just in its most extended sense, for he proceeds, "The large revenues, privileges, immunities, and powers of the clergy, rendered them formidable to the civil magistrate, and armed with too extensive authority an order of men, who always adhered closely together, and who *never* want a plausible pretence for their encroachments and usurpations." This remark, as applied to the *Romish church*, will be readily admitted, yet our author no doubt intended it should have a more extended meaning; and we are satisfied, that those who have seriously directed their attention to the subject, if free from prejudice, must allow that it attaches in some measure to all *established* religions. The reformation, imperfect as it was, did much, yet still much remains to be done. "That we have various things in our ecclesiastical establishment, which cannot be defended, upon the pure principles of the Son of God, seems to many unquestionable. Our excellent reformers did great things, considering how they had been educated, and the age in which they lived. They were good men, and proceeded, in their regenerating work, much farther than might have been expected; but their successors have not followed the noble example set before them, of reducing the religious establishment of the country to primitive purity, and evangelical simplicity."

* It has been computed that no less than 50,000,000 of protestant christians, have fallen a sacrifice to the diabolical zeal of the *Roman Catholics*, since the rise of persecution, in the seventh or eighth century: yet this system of butchery has not been *wholly* confined to the *Romish church*; bigots in all religions are the same, and with them, power and persecution are inseparable: this infernal spirit has not merely disgraced those in whom it has been found, but has much injured the cause of religion by offering arguments and encouragement to scepticism and infidelity.

"Indeed to many well informed persons, it seems extremely questionable, whether the religion of JESUS CHRIST admits of *any civil establishment* at all. They rather suppose it is inconsistent with the very nature of, and that it was never designed to be incorporated with any secular institution whatever. Certain it is, that it made its way at first, not only without human aid, but even in opposition to all laws both civil and religious, which then prevailed in the Roman Empire; and in the opinion of many, the gospel of JESUS CHRIST will never have its full and proper effect upon mankind, till it is completely disentangled from every human institution.*

d

* The following curious remarks and reasonings on religious liberty and the expediency of an *established* religion, are from the pen of HUMPHREY:

"Most of the arts and professions in a state, are of such a nature, that while they promote the interests of society, they are also useful or agreeable to some individuals; and in that case the constant rule of the magistrate, except, perhaps, on the first introduction of any art, is, to leave the profession to itself, and trust its encouragement to those who reap the benefit of it. The artizans, finding their profits to rise by the favor of their customers, increase as much as possible their skill and industry; and as matters are not disturbed by any injudicious tampering, the commodity is always sure to be at all times nearly proportioned to the demand."

"But there are also some callings which, though useful and even necessary in a state, bring no particular advantage or pleasure to any individual; and the supreme power is obliged to alter its conduct with regard to the retainers of those professions. It must give them public encouragement in order to their subsistence; and it must provide against that negligence, to which they will naturally be subject, either by annexing peculiar honors to the profession, by establishing a long subordination of ranks and a strict dependence, or by some other expedient. The persons employed in the finances, armies, fleets and magistracy, are instances of this order of men."

"It may naturally be thought, at first sight, that the ecclesiastics belong to the first class, and that their encouragement, as well as that of lawyers and physicians, may safely be entrusted to the liberality of individuals, who are attached to their doctrines, and who find benefit or consolation from their spiritual ministry and assistance. Their industry and vigilance will,

But if an established or state religion be necessary, it is equally necessary as well in a political as a religious sense, that it should be as little liable to *reasonable* objection as possible: the imperfections of *our* religious establishment cannot be hid even from those who profit most by them: worldly interest will do, and has done much to blind the eyes of men to a sense of their duty to God and to their neighbours, but they must be blind indeed, who can be insensible to the glaring defects of the present system; a man may shut his eyes when turned to the SUN, but he will still be sensible of the *presence* of light.

The *lukewarmness* and *supineness* of our clergy is one among

no doubt, be whetted by such an additional motive; and their skill in their profession as well as their address in governing the minds of the people, must receive daily increase, from their increasing practice, study and attention."

"But if we consider the matter more closely, we shall find, that this interested diligence of the clergy is what every wise legislator will study to prevent; because, in every religion, except the *true*, it is highly pernicious, and it has even a natural tendency to pervert the true, by infusing into it a strong mixture of superstition, folly, and delusion. Each ghostly practitioner, in order to render himself more precious and sacred in the eyes of his retainers, will inspire them with the most violent abhorrence of all other sects, and continually endeavour, by some novelty, to excite the languid devotion of his audience. No regard will be paid to truth, morals or decency, in the doctrines inculcated. Every tenet will be adopted that best suits the disorderly affections of the human frame. Customers will be drawn to each conventicle by new industry and address, in practising on the passions and credulity of the populace. And in the end, the civil magistrate will find, that he has dearly paid for his pretended frugality, in saving a fixed establishment for the priests; and that, in reality, the most decent and advantageous composition, which he can make with the spiritual guides, is to bribe their indolence, by assigning stated salaries to their profession, and rendering it superfluous for them to be farther active, than merely to prevent their flock from straying in quest of new pastures. And in this manner ecclesiastical establishments, though commonly they arose at first from religious views, prove in the end advantageous to the political interests of society."

the many subjects of complaint which arises out of the present system. Notwithstanding the authority of Mr. Hume, it is a serious evil, and may safely be said, to have been productive of more real injury to the cause of religion, than *all* the open attacks of infidelity put together: our clergy do indeed, appear 'to be bribed to indolence' and if religion were really nothing more than a political scheme, or a state trick, (as he would fain have us believe), a great part of the established clergy, it must be allowed, are acting a *just* and *patriotic* part, so long, as they keep 'their flock from straying in quest of new pastures:' but, on the contrary, *if* religion be *really* something more than a scheme of mere human policy; *if* the christian doctrine, were *really* established by the Son of God; *if*, he who suffered an ignominious death for our redemption, *really* left behind him, a code of moral and religious laws, more perfect than could possibly have been devised by man, to be our guidance in this life, and the test of our pretensions, for 'another and a better world;' what must be the fate of these *worthy* laborers in the Lord's vineyard, at the day of account? either, these men do not believe what they profess, and are consequently smiling at the credulity of those about them, or they are mad.*

d 2

* It is not intended to blend in indiscriminate censure, the *whole* body of God forbid *this* should be necessary; the application though general is not universal; there are among the clergy of the established church, many who are the very opposites of those we have been describing; men, who both in their public ministry and in their private lives, proclaim the truths of the gospel; whose *zeal* endeavour it is, to instil into the minds and fix on the hearts of their hearers, the great and important truths contained in the sacred writings, and the pure doctrines and precepts of christianity.

In Bishop Burnet's 'Pastoral Care' (pref. pages 15 and 16) are the following apposite and important remarks, "I am forced to declare, says he, that having had much free conversation with many who have been fatally corrupted with atheistical and infidel principles, they have very often

If ministers, of all denominations, bore a greater similitude to Goldsmith's 'Village preacher;' which under certain regulations they necessarily would, how much would the cause of religion be advanced, and the condition of mankind be improved!

"Unskilful he to fawn, or seek for power,
By doctrines fashioned to the varying hour;
Far other aims his heart had learn'd to prize,
More bent to *raise* the wretched, than to *rise*.
Thus to relieve the wretched was his pride,
And ev'n his failings lean'd to virtue's side;
But in his duty prompt at every call,
He watch'd and wept, he pray'd, and felt for all;
And as a bird each fond endearment tries,
To tempt its new-fledg'd offspring to the skies;
He try'd each art, reprov'd each dull delay,
Allur'd to brighter worlds, and *led* the way.

STATE OF THE LABORING POOR.—The condition of the laboring poor in this district is much the same as in other parts of the kingdom where agriculture forms the basis of their support; the consequence of such solitary dependence is invariably the same, while the inconveniences arising from it, differ

owned that nothing so much promoted this sin in them, as the very bad opinion which they took up of clergymen on all sides."

"That they did not see in them that strictness of life, that contempt of the world that zeal, that meekness, humility and charity; that diligence and earnestness, with relation to the great truths of the christian religion, which they reckoned they would most certainly have, if they themselves firmly believed it. They therefore concluded, that those, whose business it was more strictly to enquire into the truth of their religion, knew that it was not so certain, as they themselves, for other ends, endeavoured to make the world believe it was; and that, though, for their carrying on their own authority or fortunes, which, in one word, they call their **TRADE**, they seem very positive in affirming the truth of their doctrine, yet they in their own hearts did not believe it, since they lived so little suitable to it."

only in degree. Wherever husbandry-work forms the chief or only employ of the industrious poor, it will be seen that the number of claimants and the burthen of the poor's-rate is proportionally greater than where manufactures generally prevail. It is not our intention to investigate the different reasons assigned for this circumstance; the fact is undisputed, though the means of accounting for it are various. The point we wish to establish is, the *right* which every member of the community has, *if industrious*, to a competent maintenance;* such persons never could have been considered by the legislature as fit objects of parochial relief; the intention no doubt in framing the poor laws, was to afford relief and assistance to those *alone* who from age, sickness, or temporal affliction should be *incapable* of providing for themselves, and who consequently possessed a just and natural claim to consideration. That the *industrious* labourer after all his exertions should be under the mortifying necessity of appealing to a poor's fund to enable him to support himself and family, in a condition little above want, is a circumstance which humanity must deplore and justice condemn: but that instances of this sort are not rare, is a fact no less melancholy than true; hence the laudable spirit of independence is destroyed, and industry droops beneath the stroke of a selfish and illiberal policy. Instead of the manly spirit which should mark the natives of a country boasting of its freedom, a considerable portion of our countrymen are characterized by a degree of abject servility or of licentious indifference. Compare this class with those in the same walk of life among our scottish neighbours, and the contrast cannot but strike the most insensible; for while the former are reduced to a state of mendicity and moral degradation; the latter, more fortunately situated, are active and industrious, exhibiting a spirit of independence,

* Arthur Young observes; "a man's labour has a right to bread for himself and family."

honorable to themselves, and productive of general advantage.

The provision made for the necessitous in this country, has not, as might have been expected, produced a prevalent spirit of gratitude, and for this good reason (among others) viz. that many of the dependents on parochial charity, *feel* that their claims on the score of *justice* exceed what they obtain from *charity*, and that *alms-giving* is more in repute with us than *common honesty*. Dr. Withering has observed that "the wages of day labourers (in husbandry) are certainly very inadequate to the price of provisions; and hence," says he "arises in a great measure, the enormous increase of the poor's-rates;" and Sir Egerton Brydges in his late animated appeal to the feelings of the british public on the subject of "The poor laws," has the following paragraph ;" *At present* the price of labour is allowed by the farmers themselves to be inadequate; they are afraid to raise it because, if peace should come, they say corn would fall. They had rather, therefore, and are not unwilling, to give parochial relief; but this is a bad plan, because it injures the *independent* principle: it obliges the pauper to ask as a favour, what he has a right to claim as a due."* The truth and universality of these remarks are equally notorious, and the subject we hope will be thought worthy the notice of parliament, as a matter which affects the comforts and moral character of a considerable portion of the community. It will probably be found that more than one third of the funds raised in most parishes for the support of the poor, except in manufacturing districts, is allotted towards the maintenance of those whose incomes after the greatest exertions, prove inadequate to their support; who, though entitled by their labours to a suitable provision, are placed under the degrading necessity of appealing to the humanity of parish officers to make good that, which injustice withholds

* 'Letters on the poor laws' published by Longman, Hurst and Co. ..

from them. Why should the pay of the labourer in husbandry in particular, fall so much short of his real wants; while the means of the mechanic, if industrious, are found to be equal to his support? Is there not reason to believe that a collusion, not unfrequently exists between the labourer and his employer, by which the former agrees to the wages proposed, on condition that the latter will stand his friend at the *parish meeting*. This supposition may be considered illiberal and unauthorized, and as too unnatural and extravagant to merit consideration; but whatever scruples may arise in the minds of men unacquainted with the management of parochial affairs; those who have attended only occasionally, these courts of *distributive justice*, may possibly have seen something to warrant the supposition. To the farmer we would offer this piece of advice, "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the *power* of thine hand to do it;"* or the time may and *must* come, when an option will no longer be left, and when justice will wring from the greedy hand of the oppressor, the *dues* of industry.

CUSTOMS AND PRIVILEGES.—Within the WEALD, the proof of woodlands having ever paid tythe, lies on the parson, to entitle him to take tythe of it, contrary to the usual custom in other places, where proof of the exemption lies on the owner;† nor are the lands in it subject to the statute of woods; nor has the lord, waste within the Weald; the timber growing

* Proverbs, c. III. v. 27.

† "There was," says Sir Roger Twisden, "an old writing, with several of the parishioners bands, by which they acknowledged eight pence in the noble due to the rector of Shaddoxhurst, for all acre wood; that he himself knew the rector of Shaddoxhurst to claim tythe of wood in some cases and quotes the above writing in confirmation of it." But says, "it is to be observed that the usual paying of tythe wood in any parish, or in many, does not make it due, if it can be shewed that the parishes paying stand in the Weald."

thereon belongs to the tenant. The custom of excluding the lord from the waste, is called **LAND-PEERAGE**.

To these *exclusive* privileges may be added the law of **GAVEL-KIND**, which prevails here equally with the rest of the county, and to which its present flourishing condition is ascribed.

The law of gavel-kind* comprehends the joint inheritance of all the sons to the estate of the father; and should the father survive, the inheritance devolves to the grandsons, if there are any, or else to his daughters. The partibility of this custom is not restrained to the right line of consanguinity; for all brothers may jointly inherit the estate of a deceased brother; and agreeable to the same rule, nephews and nieces, by the right of representation, are in their degrees, intitled to the same division of property.

This transmission of an equal part of the parent's possessions to those of his family who were equally connected with him by the dearest and most tender affections, was certainly a method of distribution equally obvious, impartial and reasonable; it was therefore undoubtedly, an universal law of antiquity, 'till the scheme of policy being refined, it was judged useful, or rather found necessary, to raise such distinctions as nature never intended. To those nations who have least deviated from this equitable mode of descent, there is due a proportionate degree of commendation; and it is highly to the credit of our ancient british ancestors, that this equitable transmission prevailed here. By a law of **CANUTE**, it is implied, that our **DANISH** progenitors admitted daughters, as well as sons, to an equal share both of real and personal estate. The **SAXONS** do not seem to have been so complaisant to the fair sex in this respect;† and some of

* The term is supposed to be derived from the British words **GAFAL**, to hold, and **CENEDL**, a family.

† In the Saxon times, land was divided equally among all the male

their unpolished legislators are suggested to have assigned a sarcastic but false reason for their partial distinction; *that the worthiest of blood were to be preferred.*

At the Norman conquest, it is evident that the eldest son did not inherit to the exclusion of his brethren; and it was at that tyrannical period, that the custom was introduced, of the right of sole succession in preference to the divisible practice of inheritance; and it was introduced by William I. as a striking specimen of the military and arbitrary domination which he intended to establish. The men of Kent resisted so deprecated an encroachment with success; but the other parts of the nation were gradually brought to acquiesce, in acceding to the claim of primogeniture, except a few insignificant boroughs and manors.

"The Kentish men, says Mr. Somner (the commons there, I mean) like the Londoners, more careful in those days to maintain their issue for the present, than their houses for the future, were more tenacious, tender and retentive of the present custom, and more careful to continue it, than generally those of most othershires were; not because (as some give the reason) the younger be as good gentlemen as the elder brethren; (an argument proper, perchance, for the partible land in Wales) but because it was land, which, by the nature of it, appertained not to the gentry, but to the yeomanry, whose name or cause they cared not so much to uphold by keeping the inheritance to the elder brother." *

e

children of the deceased, according to the custom of gavel-kind. The practice of entail is to be found in these times. Land was chiefly of two kinds, *bookland*, or land held by book or charter, which was regarded as full property, and descended to the heirs of the possessor; and *folkland*, or the land held by the ceorles and common people, who were removeable at pleasure, and were indeed only tenants during the will of their lords. *1st Appendix to Hunt's England.*

* Somner on gavel-kind, p. 88 and 90.

This account (according to Mr. Robinson) agrees well with the genius and temper of the people; and Lambarde says, "in this their estate, they please themselves, and joy exceedingly; insomuch, as a man may find sundry yeomen (although otherwise for wealth-comparable with many of the gentle sort) that will not, for all that, change their condition, nor desire to be apparell'd with the titles of gentry."*

So predominant is GAVEL-KIND in Kent, that all lands are presumed to be subject to that usage, 'till the contrary is proved; and formerly, such lands only were exempt from it, as were holden by Knight's service. Anciently a royal-prerogative was exercised, by changing the customary descent as well as the tenure; and in some instances this prerogative was delegated to subjects, and particularly by King John, in the 3d year of his reign, to Hubert, Archbishop of Canterbury and his successors. Contrary interpretations have, however, been, at different times, put upon this tenure; but it is evident that the legislative authority alone can over-rule the custom of an equal partition among the sons, or other collateral descendants.†

For this purpose several statutes have been made, the first of which was in the reign of Henry VII. at the request of Sir Henry Guldeford: another act on the the same disgavelling principle, passed in the 15th of Henry VIII. another statute was obtained by Sir Henry Wyatt. In the 31st year of the reign of the same prince, the lands of thirty-four noblemen and gentlemen were disgavelled in the same manner; and a simi-

* Lamb. per. p. 11. who adds "Neither is this any cause of disdain, or of alienation of the good myndes of the one sort from the other: for no where else in all this realme, is the common people more willingly governed. To be short, they be most commonly civil, just and bountiful, so that the estate of the old *franklins* and *yeomen* of England, cyther yet liveth in Kent, or else it is quite dead and departed out of the realme for altogether."

† See also Lamb. Per. p. 393. 394. and 395.

lar liberty was allowed to forty-two others, by a statute of the 2d and 3d of Edward VI. The lands of three gentlemen only, were disgavelled during the long reign of Queen Elizabeth; and of the same number, in that of James I. and it does not appear that any act of the same nature, has passed since the first year of the latter monarch.

These disgavelling acts divested the lands to which they related of their partible property only, without affecting, in the least, their other incidental qualities, which remained the same, because they were not expressly altered by the letter of the law; else the owners of gavel-kind lands would have suffered great prejudice by the loss of their usual privileges, instead of the benefit intended by the acts. One of these privileges is, that the lands in Kent do not escheat to the King, or other lords of whom they are holden, in case of conviction and execution for felony; but the heir of a tenant in gavel-kind, notwithstanding the offence of his ancestor, shall enter immediately, and enjoy the lands by descent, after the same customs and services by which they were before holden. This peculiar immunity is comprised in the old vulgar proverb :

The father to the bough,
And the son to the plough.

The privileges attached to gavel-kind, do not, however, extend to cases of treason: for any person attainted, in the smallest degree, of this high offence, forfeits all the lands which he holds by his tenure, to the crown, according to usage. Heirs are also deprived of the title of possession, if their ancestors, being indicted for felony, should abscond, and consequently become outlaws; and in the times of papal jurisdiction, if the tenant had taken refuge in a consecrated place, or had abjured the realm, the immunity ceased; because an offender, before he could avail himself of sanctuary, was obliged to make a full confession of the crime laid to his

charge; and flight always excited a strong presumption of guilt. By the like custom, a wife's dower in lands of the nature of gavel-kind is in no case forfeitable for her husband's felony, except where the heir is liable to be debarred of his inheritance. This was a privilege almost peculiar to the widows of tenants in gavel-kind; nor was the severity of the common law mitigated in this particular, 'till a statute was passed in the first year of the reign of Edward VI. allowing every wife her dower, notwithstanding her husband's having been attainted of felony.

There ever was and still is, a very material difference between such lands as are gavel-kind, and those which are without that rule, in respect to the proportion, or the rent assigned for dower. Thus by the common law, a widow has a right to a third part only of her husband's real property; but by the law of gavel-kind, a moiety is due of all the estates possessed by the husband at the marriage, and at any time during the coverture. One disadvantage, however, is incident to dower in gavel-kind, to which the dowries of lands holden under many other tenures are not subject; namely, that a tenant of the former does not enjoy it absolutely for life, but only as long as she continues unmarried and chaste. A very circumstantial proof of incontinency was formerly required; and before a forfeiture of dower could be incurred, it was necessary to attain a widow of child-birth. This is explained by Lambarde's translation of a French MS. entitled, *The Customal of Kent*, in the following manner:

If when she is delivered of a child, the infant be herd cry, and that the hue and cry be raised, and the country assembled, and have the view of the child so born, and of the mother, then let her lose her dower wholly; and otherwise not, so long as she holdeth her a widow; whereof it is said in Kentish,

"He that doth weende her, let him lead her,

or according to Lambarde,

“He that dothe turne, or wende her,
Let him also give unto her, or lende her.”

In the present practice in these cases, it is sufficient to shew that a widow in gavel-kind has been caught tripping, to deprive her of her dower, without producing actual evidence of this casual, though frequent, effect of a breach of chastity.

The different terms of restraint imposed upon the two sexes by the gavel-kind law, betrays however a notorious partiality. A widow must keep herself not only *sole*, but *chaste*, or she loses her dower; whilst a widower, if he has a sufficient degree of resolution to avoid forming a second matrimonial connection, may, without possessing the gift of continence, remain, by the courtesy of Kent, a tenant to half of the lands that belonged to his deceased wife.

Another distinguishing property of gavel-kind is, that the tenant is of sufficient years to alienate his estates at the age of fifteen; but it must be by feoffment, that being a method of conveyance of every other the most proper, lest there be any suspicion of fraud and imposition. This privilege makes the tenant some compensation for his being kept in ward one year longer than is permitted by the course of the common law. And infants in gavel-kind always enjoyed several advantageous immunities formerly denied to other persons during their minority. In *‘The custumal of Kent’* the noble usage claimed in behalf of wards, is expressed in the following terms:

“And if the heir or heirs shall be under the age of fifteen years, let the nutriture be committed by the Lord, to the next of the blood to whom the inheritance cannot descend, so that the lord take nothing for the committing thereof. And let not an heir be married by the lord, but by his own will, and by the advice of his friends, if he will. And when such heir, or heirs, shall come to the full age of fifteen years, let all their lands and tenements be delivered unto them, together with their goods, and with the profits of the same lands

remaining above their reasonable sustenance: of the which profits and goods, let him be bound to make answer which bath the education of the heir, or else the lord, or his heirs, which committed the same education."

It was formerly the custom of this county to divide the chattels, after the funeral expences and debts of the deceased were paid, into three parts, if he left any lawful issue; of which one portion was for the performance of legacies: another towards the education of his children, and the third towards the support of his widow.

If the tenant of gavel-kind lands withdraws from his Lord his due rents and services, the custom of Kent gives the Lord a special and solemn kind of *cessavit*, denominated *gavelit*, by which unless the tenant redeems his lands by payment of the arrears, and makes reasonable amends for his neglect or contumacy, they become forfeited to the Lord, and he enters and occupies them as his own demesnes.

The tenants in gavel-kind also claim the privilege, that where a writ of right is brought concerning gavel-kind lands, the grand assize shall not be chosen in the usual manner, by four Knights, but by four tenants in gavel-kind, who shall not associate to themselves twelve Knights, but that number of tenants in gavel-kind; and trial by battle shall not be allowed in such writ for those lands.

The privileges of the tenants in gavel-kind, cannot be more clearly shewn, than by contrasting with them the burthens of the military or feudal tenure.

The heir, says the learned Sir William Blackstone,* on the

* It was the opinion of this learned judge (See Comm. vol. II. p. 99) that *gavel-kind* in the strict sense of the word, relates merely to the *tenure* of the land, and that the partibility, and other customary qualities, are rather extrinsic and accidental to *gavel-kind*, from the customary laws of the place, than necessarily comprehended under that term. This opinion is confirmed by the record of Domesday; in various passages of which, it is evident,

death of his aucestors, if of full age, was plundered of the emoluments arising from his inheritance, by way of *relief* and *prima seisin*; and if under age, of the whole of his estate during infancy.

Sir Thomas Smith in his commonwealth, has the following remarks on this head: When the heir came to his own, after he was out of wardship, his goods weere decayed, houses fallen down, stock wasted and gone, lands let forth and ploughed to be barren: to make amends, he was yet to pay half a year's profits as a fine for suing out his livery; and also the price and value of his marriage, if he refused such wife as his lord and guardian had bartered for, and imposed upon him; or twice that value, if he married another woman. And when by these deductions, his fortune was so shattered and ruined, that, perhaps he was obliged to sell his patrimony, he had not that poor privilege allowed him, without paying an exorbitant fine for a *license of alienation*.

The grievances thus established in consequence of the feudal system, were occasionally mitigated by several acts of parliament; but were not wholly abolished by the legislature, 'till the 12th year of the reign of Charles II.*

Those lands in Kent which were antiently and originally

nothing more is meant by *gavel-kind* land, than such as rendered a stated *rent* instead of *services* to the lord; thus the Bishop of Baieux held *Hollingsborne* of the Archbishop of Canterbury at a *rental*, or in *gavel-kind* tenure (*cum gablo*). See under entry of 'The lands of the monks of the Archbishop.' And again under *THE HALF LATH OF MILTON*, "Of the sowlings which *HUGH PORT* occupies, *SEWARD* held five at a *rent*, or in *gavel-kind*, &c." It appears that the villains supplied their lord's table with provisions, built his houses, ploughed his lands, &c. but the *gavel-kind* tenants paid a rent in lieu of services.

* The greater part of the preceding observations on the law of *gavel-kind* are according to the selection and arrangement of Mr. Brayley in his account of Kent, contained in the 'Beauties of England and Wales,' a work of considerable merit. To those who are desirous of further information on

helden in socage tenure, are of the nature of gavel-kind, of which sort were most of the *terra tenants* of the several seignories in it, who held by that tenure, notwithstanding their chief lords held by military service: but at the present *all* lands within the county, are presumed of the nature of gavel-kind, unless the contrary can be proved.*

That the *customal* or *common law* of *Kent*,† was little regarded during the times of feudal barbarism, may be inferred from the repeated appeals made by the commonalty to the Kentish justices in Eyre, particularly in the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I. In these presentments, the encroachments made on their liberties and customs are loudly complained of, and though the claims and pretensions of the applicants were invariably allowed, there is no reason to believe that any relief was afforded them. The *right* of exemption from the grievances complained of was admitted, but they

this subject, the work of Mr. Robinson will be found most satisfactory, "it is," says Hasted, "an excellent book, for it not only comprehends whatever is useful in the others, but contains a full account of both *tenures* and *customal*; besides which, it is a complete *law treatise* on these heads; and is of such authority in the Courts, that it is in general referred to by the judges."

* Since the passing of the *disgavelling* acts, the continual change of property, the extinction of the *court of wards*, and the *inquisitiones post mortem*, the want of knowledge where records are deposited, the great expence of searching for them, and the difficulty of proving what estates the persons named in those statutes were seized of at the time of making them, together with that of shewing what lands were formerly subject to military tenures, which has daily increased since their abolition, have occasioned such accumulated difficulties, that the possessors of such lands choose rather to waive their privileges, than enter into a labyrinth of litigation and cost. 'Robinson on gavel-kind.'

† Several copies of the *customal* may be seen in Mr. Robinson's treatise on gavel-kind, &c. taken from those in the King's Remembrancer's Office, the Cotton Library, and among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum.

were *still* exposed to burthens and impositions derogatory to their boasted freedom, and in reality enjoyed few or no advantages over those of the same rank in other parts of the kingdom. Even the *allodial* or *free tenants** were constrained to lay their *freedom* at the feet of some neighbouring chieftain, and in return for the solicited protection, to subscribe to such conditions, as their powerful neighbour might think proper to demand.

The ancient CUSTOMS and SERVICES appertaining to MANORS within the Weald, have for the most part been done away; the Lord at the present, wisely contenting himself with little more than a bare acknowledgement of his right to the *preservation of game*, and even this privilege, as a *matter of right*, it would in many instances be difficult to substantiate.†

SOIL, PRODUCTS, VALUE OF LAND, &c.—The soil in this district is various, consisting principally of clay, hazel-mould, sand and rag-stone gravel. The clay is either stiff and exceedingly heavy, or a wet sort, which ploughs somewhat lighter. The first is chiefly found on the eminences, or their sloping sides. The surface is about seven or eight inches deep, under which is a stratum of stiff yellow clay, about a foot or two thick, with a subsoil in some parts of excellent marl. The second sort of clay lies in the lower parts, is extremely wet after showers of rain, and a long time in getting dry, which often occasions a late sowing, and a backward harvest;

f

* *Allodial land*, or *allotted land* was that, allotted by the lieutenant of the county, or held by brief of the monarch.

† Those alone, are *legally* considered manors which can be proved to have existed before the passing of the statute '*quia emptores*' in the eighteenth year of King Edward I. (anno 1290) This act was occasioned by the great subdivision of property about that time, and by which, the number of inferior manors was so increased that almost every little farm of ninety or a hundred acres became a manor and held its court.

and frequently the wheat season is totally lost. The surface of this land is seven or eight inches deep; the subsoil is at some places a yellow clay, and at others a soft sand-stone rock, which is often used for mending roads. Four horses with difficulty plough an acre per day in these soils. In some parishes bordering on Sussex, the ploughing work is done by oxen: four or five pair are generally fixed to a plough, and do about the same quantity in a day as four horses. The hazel mould is a clay soil of a drier nature, from having a considerable mixture of sand, it ploughs light, and is the best land in the Weald. Sandy soils are of two sorts, black and white; the black is little regarded, but the white is much improved by marl and lime. This soil produces turnips, barley, clover and wheat, and the subsoil is the soft sand-stone. The rag-stone gravel is found only in small patches; and is of little value in its present state, being covered with furze, heath and broom.

Among the chief productions of the WEALD are hops, wheat, oats, barley, rye-grass, clover, turnips and beans: the pastures are in general extremely rich and fertile.*

The lands here have *generally* experienced as considerable an increase in value of late years, as those in any other part of the kingdom; though there are some which still bear a comparatively low price, owing to local disadvantages. The value of course varies according to situation and circumstances. Wood-land (which throughout the WEALD is exempt from tythe) will produce from 10l. to 40l. per acre. Farms of one hundred acres and upwards, consisting of arable, meadow, pasture and some portion of woodland, with house and necessary buildings, from 15l. to 40l. per acre; and less quantities of land in good situations, much higher prices. Here as in other parts, in the immediate neighbourhood of towns and vil-

* Boys's Survey of Kent.

lages, a single field, is sometimes sold at a price very disproportionate to the general value of lands; meadow land in the vicinity of the populous towns in the WEALD, sells from 75l. to 100l. per acre; and in some situations as high as 150l.

The WEALD contains but few considerable estates, the landed property being generally much divided. Among the principal proprietors are Sir Horatio Mann, Bart, Thomas Law Hodges, Esq. of Hemsted, Henry Streatfield, Esq. of Chidingstone, and Lord le Despencer. From this division of property the inclosures are small to suit the convenience of the holders, hence, a considerable loss is occasioned to the public and not unfrequently to themselves. The hedge rows are mostly broad and thick, obstructing the free action of the air and sun, the growth of wood in them being much encouraged for the supply of the hop-gardens, to which, every thing gives place. To this point the whole attention of the farmer is generally directed, and if in this he is disappointed, the necessary consequences are distress and poverty. Too much dependence is placed on this uncertain plant, and many to their cost have indeed found, that they have been cultivating *bitters*. The farms in this district seldom exceed one hundred and fifty acres, though there are some, particularly in the neighbourhood of Yalding, that are considerably larger: from fifty to one hundred acres appears the most common size.

CLIMATE, SCENERY, &c.—The climate of the Weald, is much milder than in those parts of the county northward of the range of hills extending from Folkstone to Wrotham, &c. these hills affording it considerable shelter from the more cutting winds; though from the nature of the soil, much of it being, as before observed, a cold moist clay, the harvest is rather later than in situations more exposed.

The salubrity of the air in this district is generally admitted; for though some exceptions are taken by Dr. Harris and Mr.

Hasted, as to those parts immediately bordering on the marsh; they are too trifling and unimportant to affect the general character which the Weald has so universally and so justly obtained: but if the observation of Dr. Harris* should be supposed to refer to the land under the hills, which bound the Weald on the north, as laying comparatively low; it may be replied, that in these parts no unhealthy symptoms have ever been manifested, which could be attributed to the situation. Indeed the Weald so far from being a low marshy or swampy tract of country, as might be supposed from a slight view of it, taken from the high lands on the north, has little or no marshy ground within its boundary. It is for the most part made up of gentle hill and dale, undulating in all directions, and towards the more southerly parts rising abruptly into well wooded eminences, little, if any, below the level of the highest land in the county, not even excepting the range of chalk-hills.† Of the purity of the air in these parts, in addition to

* This large tract of the Weald (says Dr. Harris) is by no means generally speaking, unhealthy, except where the ground is marshy or swampy, as it is in low lands near the sea and river every where. The ways indeed are very bad in it, in winter or wet weather; because the soil is generally upon a clay. But in summer 'tis all a garden, and in a dry season the ways are rather better for a coach, than they are any where else, being without deep ruts. And from the tops of the adjacent hills, it is the finest prospect imaginable to look down into the Weald in summer time; for the whole being in a manner composed of inclosures; the corn fields and meadows of different colours, adorned with all manner of flowers, the green woods and hedge rows, and the towns and villages here and there interspersed, do afford so very great and agreeable a variety of view, that I never saw any thing any where more delightful and charming. And this large and extensive prospect renders the seats of those gentlemen which are situated on the edge of the hills, exceedingly pleasant in all good and clear weather. Hist. of Kent, p. 348.

† It is the opinion of many that the highest land in Kent is to be found in the Weald; the spot alluded to, is on Hartly-hill, about one mile and a half S. W. of the town of Cranbrook.

common opinion, we have the concurring testimony of Dr. Derham,* who concludes deducing his opinion from the longevity of its inhabitants as shewn by the church registers, and from the peculiarities of its situation, that CRANBROOK must be among the most healthy spots in England, and if this conclusion be just, a strong presumptive proof may thence be drawn in favor of the *general* healthiness of this district. This may in a great measure arise from the quantity of wood and other vegetable matters with which the Weald peculiarly abounds, and the small quantity of stagnant water it contains. It is a generally received opinion that all plants and trees possess a property of purifying the air by absorbing the noxious particles that float in it. Dr. Ingenhousz says,† it will perhaps appear probable that one of the great laboratories of nature for cleansing and purifying the air of our atmosphere is placed in the substance of the leaves, and put in action by the influence of the light, and that all plants possess a power of speedily correcting foul air unfit for respiration. The air generated by the leaves of trees, &c. being heavier than common air *descends*, while the latter fouled by the respiration of animals, and other causes, *ascends*; is purified as before stated, and again rendered fit for respiration. But be the cause what it may, the fact is unquestionable.

The scenery of the WEALD, though not of a character to excite surprise or astonishment, possesses charms which will be felt by those, at all acquainted with its antient condition, or who have the smallest relish for the beauties of nature: it partakes not of the sublime, but possesses features that more strongly fasten on the feelings, for here

“The bursting prospect spreads around:
And over hill and dale, and wood and lawn,

* Physico Theology.

† Experiences sur les végétaux. See also Priestley's works, and his life by Corry, edit. 1804, p. 57. and 58.

And verdant field, —————
 And villages embosom'd soft in trees,
 And spiry towns by surging columns mark'd
 Of household smook, the eye excursive roams."

How different its state, while yet

"No sounding axe presumed those trees to bite,
 Coeval with the world."
 When through the trackless waste and dreary solitude
 By verdant field and village spire unvaried,
 The dappled *burgher* of the wood, untaught to fear,
 Strayed unmolested.

The numerous small streams and rivulets which intersect the **WEALD**, though too inconsiderable to add to its scenery, are notwithstanding of much local advantage, (the principal are the *Beult* and the *Teise*); and the water here obtained for domestic purposes, is generally speaking not surpassed by any in the kingdom.

ROADS.—Until within these few years, the roads throughout the **Weald** were very indifferent, and even now, *some* of the highways in the winter season are impassable for any carriage of pleasure; though in the summer these very roads afford the most delightful rides, being free from dust and agreeably shaded by high hedge rows, and branching oaks, which, but partially excluding the beautiful and varying scenery of the surrounding country, serve to heighten its interest. The reputed badness of the roads in these parts, has no doubt been the principal cause of preventing many from visiting them: but though the observations of Harris and earlier writers were at the time correct, yet the reproach is now wearing fast away, and at this period there are some roads within the **Weald**, at least equal to any that can be found without its limits. It is a circumstance much to be regretted, that many of our local histories have been compiled by non-residents and not unfrequently by persons who have never seen the places of which

they have treated, or taken even common pains to inform themselves of their *present* state; thus an observation, at first just and apposite, is banded about until it becomes inconsistent and ridiculous. In a recent history of this county, the roads here (expressly the highways) are represented, (probably on the authority of Hasted) as even worse than can be inferred from the description given of them by Dr. Harris in his time; as will appear by the following extracts; "The *highways* in this district are in general very indifferent, and frequently impassable for carriages, even in tolerable weather: in winter even horses cannot keep the main roads, but are obliged to pass along the narrow paved tracks that have been formed at the sides;" and again, "in the winter season in wet weather, it is *impossible* to travel over the Weald in carriages, and scarcely on horseback; though in the *principal* roads, which are from fifty to sixty feet broad, there is generally a paved causeway about three feet in width, raised for the accommodation of passengers." Of these remarks, we shall only observe, that they are for the most part unfounded: that there are *ways* within the Weald impassable for carriages in the winter, is before admitted, and that on the sides of such roads, causeways are formed for the accommodation of horsemen and foot passengers; but that the *principal* roads, are deserving the character above given them, must be denied. One of the principal roads is that which enters the Weald at Liuton (from Maidstone) passing through Staplehurst, Cranbrook, Tenterden, Small-hythe and Appledore, which, with the exception of two miles between Staplehurst and Cranbrook is really a very good road; and that it is *passable* for carriages is proved by the circumstance of a stage coach passing to and fro three times a week for some years past, and without a single accident which could be imputed to the road; another principal one is that from Tunbridge through Brenchley, Lamberhurst, Hawkhurst and Newenden, also a coach-

road, and not inferior to the former; indeed a considerable part of this last is not exceeded by any road in the kingdom. The roads also, from Tunbridge to the Wells, from the former to Penshurst, from Cranbrook to Goudhurst and Horsmonden, from Cranbrook to Benenden and also to Hawkhurst; and from Tenterden to Newenden are all exempt from the above unqualified reproach.

The expence however of maintaining the roads in these parts in any tolerable state is very considerable, owing to the heavy carriage of materials and the continual attention and labor, necessary to make good the damage done by the enormous burthens brought upon them.* Good roads, as neces-

* As an instance, a waggon containing one hundred pockets of hops, averaging $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. per pocket, which with the waggon amounted to $7\frac{1}{2}$ tons has been known to pass on these roads. Four or five tons is the common weight of a loaded waggon, and under the pressure of such a load, the best materials must in some measure fail. The roads here are composed either of rag-stone, beach, iron-stone or sand. Another sort of stone of the testaceous kind, dug in the parishes of Staplehurst, Frittenden and Headcorn has also been partially tried, but found not to answer the purpose, being easily decomposed and reduced by the slightest friction to powder. The three first when under good management will form a sound hard road, but until within a little while, the management of our roads has been sadly defective, and in consequence, a greater expence has been incurred than would have been necessary, if judgment and not custom had been attended to. It was usual merely to shoot down the stones where they were intended to lie, and leave them in the same state they were brought from the quarry; by this execrable and injudicious practice the road was rendered so uneven and full of holes, that it was not only inconvenient and unpleasant, but highly dangerous. This was the condition of the road from Linton to Staplehurst; but since a more judicious course has been pursued, this road is become equal if not superior to any leading out of BATH, a part of England which has been noticed for the goodness of its roads. The management of the sand roads, still, appears very objectionable; in order to throw off the wet the sand is heaped together in the centre, not unfrequently eighteen inches or two feet above the sides. Independent of the danger to which carriages are thus exposed, the practice seems injudicious, for it is not to be expected that the

sary to the interests of agriculture and commerce, are particularly deserving the attention of the legislature, and a matter of general as well as of local concern. The adoption of *weighing machines* has done but little good, and still less has been produced by the encouragement of broad and rolling wheels, the latter having served to *increase* the mischief they were designed to obviate, by promoting the practice of conveying in one carriage as great a weight as possible; and this is not all, for it has been found by experience, that these wheels even under the same weight, are generally more prejudicial and destructive than narrow ones. It is as much the duty of the legislature to frame such regulations as may be found necessary for the *preservation* of the public roads, as it is to require or authorise their being made: and as the laws

8

heavy carriages of hops, wool, timber and lime, will be kept exactly in the centre of these roads, especially in the night, and when not unfrequently the drivers are asleep. When the wheels on one side are brought into the centre of the road, nearly the whole weight is thrown on those that are lowest, the injury to the road must in such case be considerable, and the expence of keeping them in any tolerable state of repair, necessarily great. But as this accumulation in the centre, is only considered necessary in flats, would it not be advisable to adopt the following expedient. Instead of continuing the road on a dead level, let there be an occasional rise at the distance of one or two hundred yards apart, just sufficient to draw off what water may fall on it; and lay the road perfectly flat. This undulating form would lessen the draught, and the pressure on the road would be equalized. If ruts are formed in roads thus constructed, they may be readily repaired, and but little injury would be done to them even in the wettest seasons, as the water would naturally find its way to the lowest parts and be conveyed with little attention into the ditches, to secure which, a low embankment should be formed with the stuff thrown from them. It may be objected; that in sand roads thus constructed, the most valuable part of the sand, would be incessantly drawn by the rains, to the lowest parts: this would in some measure be the case, but it would not be dispersed and lost as at present, but might be collected again and applied with less expence than under the present management. This scheme is equally applicable to roads formed of harder materials.

hitherto enacted have been found either insufficient or destructive of the end proposed, some other expedients are become necessary. The conclusions of the board of agriculture on this important point, should be immediately acted upon: it is their opinion, founded on diligent enquiry and mature deliberation, that the object can only be obtained by enforcing such a construction of carriages as are fit only for *light* loads, and will not carry *heavy* ones. In short to encourage or enforce the use of short teams, or one horse carts.

The *bye* ways in these parts, as in most others, are very bad; and a stranger who has experienced the advantages and comfort of good roads, will be at some loss to account for the indifference to this circumstance, manifested by the residents of many parts of the Weald. A complaint seldom or ever escapes the farmer on this score, and so long as his wagons can, with any strength he is able to muster, be drawn through them, it would be difficult to extort a confession, that they are really bad: he will admit perhaps, they are indifferent, but in his estimation they cannot be very bad, while his business can be done, and done in any way. If good roads could be formed from each farm house, to the nearest market town, or to the chalk hills, or even throughout the Weald, by a voluntary contribution of £1. for every £10. of rent paid, for one year only, trifling as the sacrifice must appear, it would *generally* be deemed too great, and the object would, by such means, never be accomplished; nay more, if the end could be effected free of expence, it is very far from certain whether the majority of the tenants in these parts, would express themselves pleased with the alteration. From these premises it might be inferred, that the farmers in this country are more ignorant and less awake to their interests than those of other parts; but this is not the fact; they possess as much good sense and are perhaps as capable of appreciating the advantages of good roads as their neighbours more fortunately situ-

ated; but in a revolution of this kind they foresee many evils, heightened probably by an attachment to old habits and local prejudices. Be this as it may, it is certain that very important consequences must result from a change of this nature, and on an impartial consideration of the subject, it will be seen that the seeming indifference of the tenant, and his objections to such an innovation, are neither to be attributed to insensibility or unfounded prejudice. He is aware, that by making good roads, his approach to market with his team, and means of obtaining manure, would be facilitated; that by easing the draught, one or two horses might be spared; that the wear and tear of his tackle would be materially reduced; in short, that his business might be carried on with less expence, and with much more pleasure to himself than formerly. What then, it may be asked, can render him lukewarm and indifferent to such a change of circumstances? *Simply*, that his landlord may be as well able to estimate these advantages as himself, and that ultimately it is more than possible, he may be no gainer by the change. If these notions of the tenant have any weight, and their fears are admitted to be well founded, should not these very considerations operate with the *owners* of land in such situations to promote as far as in their power the accomplishment of good roads, and stimulate them to step forward in support of any measure calculated to effect so desirable an end. There can be no doubt, but that the landed property in many parts of the Weald, would in such case be more than doubled in value; while the public would be materially benefited, by an increased produce of the land, and the facilities of communication thus afforded.

MINERALS, &c.—Iron ore is found in considerable abundance in different parts of the WEALD, and of very superior quality, but owing to the increased value of fuel, the expence of obtaining lime-stone (for a flux) and the want of a more

ready communication with other parts, the smelting and working this valuable mineral has for some time ceased, and is now removed to places, either more fortunately situated in these respects, or where the importance of inland navigation is better understood and appreciated.

At BETHERSDEN, a grey turbinated marble is dug, formerly much in request for the ornamental parts of building and for tombs: it is similar to that of Petworth, and slightly resembles the marble of Kilkenny, but is less compact and of a more sombre cast. An inferior stone, also of the testaceous kind, is found in several adjoining parishes about the centre of the Weald, which is used for paving the causeways and horse tracks: it is besides employed in building, and is valuable where durability alone is required.* Sand-stone is dug here pretty generally, and much used; the best, perhaps, is found in the parish of Hawk-hurst. Most of the religious edifices in this part of the county, are built with sand-stone, which though soft at first, soon becomes indurated by exposure. The Kentish rag-stone is also dug within the Weald. These must all become articles of importance in the event of a canal being carried through these parts.

PROJECTED IMPROVEMENT.—We must not close this general sketch without noticing the projected canal through the WEALD; an idea which originated with a few public spirited individuals in the year 1800; by whom a fund was raised for defraying the expences of a survey. Accordingly Mr. Alexander Sutherland, then engaged in superintending the improvements of Rye harbour, was applied to, and by him a survey was made and a report thereon laid before the subscribers at a

* This stone is wholly composed of marine shells and sand. From its component parts, there is reason to believe it would make an excellent cement and a valuable lime both for agricultural and building purposes. It is at least worth the trial.

general meeting held at Maidstone in July 1801. When it was resolved, "That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the navigations proposed are practicable, with great peculiar advantages to the counties of Kent and Sussex, and with general utility to the community at large." Previous to any remarks on Mr. Sutherland's report, or the resolution above quoted; it may be proper to state what was the nature of Mr. Sutherland's project, and the course he proposed.

The avowed object, was that of uniting the rivers Medway and ROTHER, and the course suggested, as follows; the point of union with the Medway, was proposed a few rods above Twyford bridge, then crossing Yalding lees, to keep between the river Beult and Brand-bridges to Hunten clappers and Stile-bridge; and by Hersfield and Hockingbury bridges to Frittenden brook stream; from thence to Buckhurst-bridge and Hammer-mill pond; then continued to the turnpike road between Røgley-bridge and Forsten-green, where after crossing the road, a tunnel was proposed of the length of one thousand two hundred yards: from thence to pass through the valley between Park-gate and Halden-place, on to Ashbourne bridges, Lord's Gutt Penns, and the Otter channel, where the junction with the Rother was to be effected.

Such was the proposed direction of the main line, and however sanguine and positive Mr. Sutherland might at that time have been as to the practicability and advantages of his scheme, or however plausible it might have appeared to the committee; it is nevertheless certain that doubts did soon arise, both with regard to the accuracy of the survey and the propriety of applying for power to carry this project into execution: and these doubts were in no small degree confirmed by the melancholy death of Mr. Sutherland, on the eve of the adjourned meeting in the Easter week following.

As the line, recommended by Mr. Sutherland has long since been abandoned, it would be needless to point out the objec-

tions to which it was liable, or the errors and imperfections with which his survey abounds.*

Some weeks prior to Mr. Sutherland's death, he had expressed a wish that the Report of some engineer of known reputation might be had, before subscriptions were opened for executing the work, and accordingly Mr. Rennie was applied to for that purpose. It was proposed, the two engineers should meet at Maidstone on the 20th of April 1802 and go over the ~~Lines~~ together, but Mr. Sutherland excused himself on account of indisposition. On the 23d of the same month at the general meeting, the death of Mr. Sutherland was made known, when Mr. Rennie was directed "to survey the whole ~~Lines~~, report upon it, and state any alterations and improvements that might suggest themselves to him." This he did, as appears by his Report, dated September 4th in the same year.

Mr. Rennie viewing this rather as an agricultural than a mercantile concern, very properly suggested an extension to the Wye hills, for the more ready introduction of chalk and lime so absolutely necessary to the agriculture of the Weald; and also recommended the extension towards Lamberhurst as originally proposed by Mr. Sutherland, in order to increase the advantageous dispersion of these valuable articles, and at the same time, afford a more ready and less expensive con-

* The errors of Mr. Sutherland arose from the want of sufficient practice in that department of his profession, which more especially requires the advantage of long experience and unwearied diligence. Yet while a regard to truth induces us to notice the professional imbecility of Mr. Sutherland in one instance, an equal respect to justice compels us to admit his just claims to applause in other respects. If we judge Mr. Sutherland by the Report which accompanied the unfortunate Survey alluded to, and without reference to the latter, we must acknowledge him to have been a man of no mean talents and acquirements: the perspicuity with which this professional paper is drawn up, the local knowledge and research it evinces, and the comparative elegance of its language, fully warrant the conclusion, that had he lived he must have become an ornament to his profession.

veyance for the timber of that neighbourhood, to the dock-yards on the MEDWAY and the THAMES. A survey agreeable to these suggestions was made by Mr. Rennie in 1803; at the expence of Sir William Geary, Bart. whose liberality and public spirit on this and many other occasions, justly entitle him to the grateful thanks of the county.*

A partial report of this survey was made in a letter to Sir William, in August following; though it was further continued after that time, as appears by Mr. Rennie's printed report and plan of the canal, bearing date July 19th, 1809, in which the scheme was considerably extended, by the addition principally, of a collateral branch to Hever castle and an extension of the main line to St. Nicholas bay.†

Though the liberal and enlarged view of the subject taken by Mr. Rennie, was generally gratifying to the friends of the concern, it was deemed unadvisable to apply for such extensive powers, or brave the opposition which would be met with, in the prosecution of so extensive an undertaking. The committee of management therefore, directed in the year following, a more circumstantial and limited survey to be made; and a bill to empower them to carry the same into execution, was laid before parliament in the sessions of 1811, when, con-

* The subscribers not considering it right to avail themselves of the unsolicited liberality of any individual, in a business of this public nature, and in the success of which he could be no otherwise interested than as wishing to promote a matter of common advantage; very properly, on the revival of the undertaking in 1810, reimbursed Sir William Geary the expences of this survey out of the general fund. This in no measure lessens the value of Sir William Geary's conduct on that occasion, nor should it be allowed to alter our opinion of it.

† These surveys, under the direction of Mr. Rennie, were made by Messrs. Giles, of New Inn, whose diligence, zeal and accuracy in the numerous surveys of this kind, in which they have been engaged, have justly obtained for them the confidence of the public, and a pre-eminent rank in their profession.

trary to the original intention of the projectors of the undertaking, it was found advisable to unite it with the Royal Military Canal near Appledore: the delay unavoidably created, in adjusting with government the terms of this junction, and other unforeseen circumstances, arising from the spirited opposition of a few wealthy individuals, induced the promoters of the measure to defer the further prosecution of it until the ensuing sessions. It was then with certain modifications again submitted to the house, and at length after considerable opposition from its avowed enemies and pretended friends, was carried.

We have been thus circumstantial in detailing the progress of the present undertaking, in order to remove the idle and selfish misinterpretations of its enemies. This is not the project of a few desperate and visionary speculatists, but a well-grounded and rational measure for the amelioration of the country, graced with the sanction and support of persons of the first respectability, matured by time, and under the guidance of unequalled professional talents. As it is deserving of, so it is hoped it will meet with, support.

THE WEALD OF KENT is in the diocese of Canterbury, and for the most part within the western division of the county. Its greatest length, namely from Edenbridge westward, to Aldington in the east, is about forty miles, and its average width eight miles and a half. The parishes described in the following pages, are either *wholly* or *principally* within the district under consideration; those which have only a small portion within the Weald (as Sevenoaks, &c.) it has been deemed unnecessary to notice particularly.

HISTORY

OF THE

Weald of Kent.

A.

ALDINGTON. The village of *Aldington*, or as it is usually called in the neighbourhood, *Allington*, is pleasantly situated on the ridge of quarry hills, on the road between Limne and Ashford; from its elevated situation it commands extensive views of the Country round; but the most pleasing prospects in this neighbourhood, and perhaps in the County, are obtained from the high land, a little to the Westward of *Aldington Corner**, and on the right of the road from Ashford; the lower part of the hill southward is occupied with wood, over which a wide expanse of Marsh is seen, stretching to the Sea, and bounded on the west by the high land in the neighbourhood of Rye and Winchelsea; on the right are the extensive woodlands in the vicinity of Shadoxhurst, while the left presents a partial but distinct view of the Ocean, rising as it were above the wood; the numerous Churches scattered over the marsh, the beacons on the Coast, the venerable re-

A

* This place, though secondary to the Village, and called a Hamlet, is, by far the most considerable cluster of dwellings in the Parish, and it has to boast a very tolerable Inn.

mains of Bilsington Priory, and the moving scenes afforded by the shipping, which are distinctly seen in the direction of Hythe, form altogether, a picture of uncommon beauty and interest. The roads in these parts are hard and sound, but extremely rough; the water is good, and the air has the reputation of being particularly salubrious.

The MANOR OF ALDINGTON (Ealdintune) appears to have been formerly of very considerable compass, extending, according to the record of Domesday into the parishes of Limne, Stowting, &c. It was granted by Queen Ediva, anno 961 to the Priory of Christ Church, Canterbury, and on a partition of the possessions of that Church between the Monks and Archbishop Lanfranc (in the reign of the Conqueror) this Manor was allotted to the latter, and the manor house, in after times, made the occasional residence of his successors "who had a large Park here, and a chase for the beasts of the Forest."* Archbishop Morton, in King Henry the Seventh's reign, made considerable additions to the Mansion house; but in the succeeding reign it was alienated to the Crown, the Park rendered more complete, and extended by subsequent purchases. In the first year of Edward the Sixth, the Manor was granted to John Dudley Earl of Warwick to hold *in Capite*, but within two years afterwards was reconveyed to that Monarch, in exchange for Estates elsewhere; and from that time continued among the possessions of the Crown until the reign of Charles the first, when the MANOR, with its appurtenances and

* The remains of the Court Lodge, still inhabited, are on the north side of the Church Yard, and what is now called Aldington Frith (Frith) was the chase above spoken of; at the south east Corner of it, is the Manor house of Poulton Stansted. About three quarters of a mile northward of Aldington Frith is a conical hill, with a large pond on the summit which is said never to have been dry, though the springs below it have frequently been known to fail in dry seasons.

rents of assise, were granted to Nicholas Siddenham, Esq. and Edward Smith, Gent. to hold in fee at the yearly rent of 260l. 17s. 4½d. but the *scite and demesnes* of the Manor, were granted to Sir Edward Hales, Knight and Baronet, as trustee for Sir Dudley Diggs, to hold of the Manor of East Greenwich by fealty only, in free and common socage, in fee ferme for ever. The latter is now in the possession of William Deedes, Esq. of St. Stephen's, Canterbury, also owner of the Manor of Shrympenden; and the fee farm rent before mentioned is vested in James Drake Brockman, Esq.

Aldington is rendered particularly remarkable by the well-known imposture of Elizabeth Barton, "the Holy Maid of Kent." The place chosen as the principal theatre of this disgraceful trickery, (so strongly characteristic of the knavery and superstitious weakness of the times,) was in the Chapel of *Court at Strete* in this parish; the affair is thus related by Hume.

"Elizabeth Barton of Aldington in Kent, commonly called the *Holy Maid of Kent*, had been subject to hysterical fits, which threw her body into unusual convulsions, and having produced an equal disorder in her mind, made her utter strange sayings, which, as she was scarcely conscious of them during the time, had soon after entirely escaped her memory. The silly people in the neighbourhood were struck with these appearances, which they imagined to be supernatural; and Richard Masters, vicar of the parish, a designing fellow founded on them a project from which he hoped to acquire both profit and consideration. He went to Warham, Archbishop of Canterbury, and having given him an account of Elizabeth's revelations, he so far wrought on that prudent but superstitious prelate, as to receive orders from him to watch her in her trances, and carefully to note down all her future sayings. The regard paid her by a person of so high a rank, soon rendered her still more the object of attention to the neighbour-

hood; and it was easy for Masters to persuade them, as well as the Maid herself, that her ravings were inspirations of the Holy Ghost. Knavery, as is usual, soon after succeeding to delusion, she learned to counterfeit trances; and she then uttered, in an extraordinary tone, such speeches as were dictated to her by her spiritual director. Masters associated with him Dr. Bocking, a canon of Canterbury; and their design was to raise the credit of an image of the Virgin, which stood in a chapel belonging to Masters, and to draw to it such pilgrimages as usually frequented the more famous images and reliques. In prosecution of this design, Elizabeth pretended revelations, which directed her to have recourse to that image for a cure; and being brought before it, in the presence of a great multitude, she fell anew into convulsions; and after distorting her limbs and countenance during a competent time, she affected to have obtained a perfect recovery by the intercession of the Virgin. This miracle was soon bruited abroad; and the two priests, finding the imposture to succeed beyond their own expectations, began to extend their views, and to lay the foundation of more important enterprises. They taught their penitent to declaim against the new doctrines, which she denominated heresy; against innovations in ecclesiastical government; and against the King's intended divorce from Catherine. She went so far as to assert, that if he prosecuted that design, and married another, he should not be King a month longer, and should not an hour longer enjoy the favor of the Almighty, but should die the death of a villain. Many monks throughout England, either from folly or roguery, or from faction, which is often a complication of both, entered into the delusion; and one Deering, a friar, wrote a book of the revelations and prophecies of Elizabeth. Miracles were daily added to increase the wonder; and the pulpit every where resounded with accounts of the sanctity and inspirations of the new prophetess. Messages were carried from her to Queen

Catherine, by which that princess was exhorted to persist in her opposition to the divorce; the pope's ambassadors, gave encouragement to the popular credulity; and even Fisher Bishop of Rochester, though a man of sense and learning, was carried away by an opinion so favorable to the party which he had espoused. The King at last began to think the matter worthy of his attention; and having ordered Elizabeth and her accomplices to be arrested, he brought them before the Star chamber, where they freely, without being put to the torture, made confession of their guilt. The Parliament in the sessions held the beginning of this year, passed an act of attainder against some who were engaged in this treasonable imposture; and Elizabeth herself, Masters, Bocking, Deering, Rich, Risby, and Gold, suffered for their crime. The Bishop of Rochester, Abel, Addison, Lawrence, and others, were condemned for misprision of treason; because they had not discovered some criminal speeches which they heard from Elizabeth; and they were thrown into prison. The better to undeceive the multitude, the forgery of many of the prophetesses miracles was detected; and even the scandalous prostitution of her manners was laid open to the public. Those passions which so naturally insinuate themselves amidst the warm intimacies maintained by the devotees of different sexes, had taken place between Elizabeth and her confederates; and it was found, that a door to her dormitory, which was said to have been miraculously opened, in order to give her access to the chapel, for the sake of frequent converse with heaven, had been contrived by Bocking and Masters for less refined purposes." Thus, says Hume "the detection of this imposture, attended with so many odious circumstances, both hurt the credit of the ecclesiastics, particularly the Monks, and instigated the King to take vengeance on them."

The Church of Aldington (the advowson of which belongs to the see of Canterbury) has nothing remarkable about it, but a

part of the tower, begun in the year 1507, and left until the present, in an unfinished state. In this addition is displayed a beautiful specimen of the Florid Gothic, a style of architecture by no means common in this district: on the right of the entrance, is a canopied recess in which the holy water was placed, and immediately over the entrance, an highly ornamental fascia; on each side of the window above is a well-proportioned niche with canopies, enriched with crockets and finials and groined soffits chequered with tracery; but this display of the builder's taste is confined to the lower part of the western front, the remainder of the steeple bearing no analogy to it. The building, dedicated to ST. MARTIN, consists of a nave, one side aisle, and two chancels; on a stone in the north chancel, are the effigies in brass of John Weddeol, Gent. and Maud his wife, as also of their three sons and two daughters; the date 1475. It is worthy of remark that this living was for a short time held by the famous ERASMUS, 'the most learned man of the age in which he lived.'

There is an established modus of nine pence per acre on all grass lands in this Parish, "in lieu of all tythes whatever; to break through which, there was a suit in 1754 between Dr. Chapman, then Rector, and Smith, who was an occupier of such lands here, in which the Rector was cast." The glebe is about 14 acres.

APPLEDORE. By the Saxons written *Apuldre*, and in Domesday, *Apeldres*, takes its name from its low and damp situation near the channel, which formerly flowed up to it from the Sea.

"The situation of Appledore was formerly very different from what it is at present, having been in antient time a maritime town, to which the Sea flowed up, and large fleets frequently navigated; but the river Rother, or Limene, as it was then called,

having long since directed its course from this Channel; it has been for ages past left dry and destitute both of salt and fresh water, and covered with pastures and cattle, the stream of it flowing by a far different one into the Sea; the only water near it at this time being the small rivulet or dyke, which passes between the main land and the isle of Oxney, at the east end of which it now runs, just below Appledore, and encompassing the eastern side of that island, where, though an inconsiderable stream, it takes the name of Appledore channel, and passing the White Kemp Sluice, flows into Rye haven, where it meets the Sea."

"The River Rother, or Limene, instead of its present course, formerly flowed by Newenden to Maytham, and so along by Smallhyth and Reading between the main land and the isle of Oxney to the town of Appledore, where, instead of turning its course to the southward, as it does now, towards Rye haven, it kept on close by Appledore still eastward, along by where the Rheewall now is, where the remains of the old trench, in which this river flowed between Appledore and Old Romney, being about four miles, is plainly traced, being of large extent and breadth, though long since become dry and converted into pasture ground."

"This River did not forsake its antient course all at once, but at times and by degrees, as appears by the continued means taken to prevent it, as well as against the inundation of the Sea, so early as King Henry the First's time; and there happened one not long afterwards, which is mentioned both by Mathew Paris and Westminster. The former in his relation of this violent rage and ferment of the Sea in 1250, and the inundations consequent, says, that at Winchelsea above three hundred Houses and some Churches, were by its violence overturned; but the very year in which this change of course happened, appears to have been in the fifteenth of Edward the First, when,

as Camden says, the Sea, raging with the violence of winds, overflowed this tract, making a dreadful destruction of People, Cattle and Houses, caused this river to forsake its old channel, and opened a new and nearer way, as at present, into the Sea at Rye. And though every means were used afterwards by frequent commissions to view and see to the repair of these broken Walls, yet by future tempests, (one in particular of which happened in the eighth year of Edward the Third), all thoughts of the river's ever returning to its old channel, seem to have been given up; and three years afterwards, the King by his letters patent granted this old trench or channel, leading from an arm of the Sea, called Apledre, towards the town of Romene, to the different owners of the soil, with licence for them to obstruct, dam, and stop it up, as it had by reason of the sands and other matter flowing in, been so filled up, that Ships could not pass by it; and reciting that there was another trench leading from the said arm to Romene, lately made by force of the Sea, by which Ships passed to that Town, as they had before used to do by the former one, and was more proper and sufficient."

"Whilst the river continued navigable to this Town in its ancient state, the Danes, in the time of King Alfred, anno 893, with an intent to plunder this Country, entered the mouth of it, and went up this Channel with a fleet of two hundred and fifty sail of Ships as high as Appledore, to which at that time the Weald, or great forest of Andred, extended itself eastward. There are strong appearances remaining to support this opinion; and that the tract of land called the Dowles, in the south east part of this parish, nearer to Romney, was once covered with Wood; among others, that the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury have a parcel of land in the western part of the Dowles, which are said in the records to that Churh to lie in Appledore Wood; and that at the depth of from three to six feet, there have been frequently found in different parts of this tract of land, oak leaves, acorns, birch, and willow, and the

stalks of brakes, &c. in high preservation, and likewise large trees of various kinds and sizes lying in different directions, and sometimes across one another; and what is worth observation, they appear to have been cut down with an axe or sharp instrument, and not with a saw; strong proofs that these Dowles were once part of the forest before mentioned, and covered with trees and wood."

"At Appledore the Danes intrenched themselves on the scite of a small half-built fort, inhabited by a few boors, which they demolished, together with the village, and built one of a larger size and strength, and kept their rendezvous there for some time. What became of this castle afterwards, I do not find but it is probable that it was ruined by the French in 1380, who then burnt this town, and tradition reports, that on the ruins of this castle the present church was built; and the situation of it renders it very probable."

"The soil of *this parish* is for the greatest part moorish, boggy, and fenny; though some of the upper or northern part of it is sandy, with some coppice wood on it. It is about two miles and a half in length, and about two in breadth.

The village is situated very low, close to the marshes in the southern part of it, near a quarter of a mile from the eastern part of the isle of Oxney, with the church standing close on the eastern side of it. The houses are but meanly built. The vast quantity of marshes which lie contiguous and come close up to it, make it very unhealthy, and this is rendered much more so, by a large tract of swamp, called the Dowles, lying about a mile south eastward from the village, within the marsh; they are about two miles long and more than one wide, containing about four hundred acres. One part of it is hardly ever free from water, unless for a month or so at the end of a very dry summer; the other part has some few spaces of sound ground, but is wholly overflowed during the winter, and in a year when fodder

is scarce, or the season backward, is of great service to the farmers; for the grass, having no want of rain, springs early, and in great plenty, and affords excellent feeding for the larger stock. There are some thoughts of draining this tract of land, which, if it can be effected, will render it a most valuable and fertile parcel of pasture, the soil of the whole of it appearing to be very rich. The large quantity of stagnating water continually on this tract of land, which is almost an entire swamp, engenders such noxious and pestilential vapours, as spread sickness and frequent death on the inhabitants of this and some of the adjoining parishes; the sickly countenances of them plainly discovering the unwholesome air they breathe in."

"King Edward the Third in his 32d year, granted to the prior and convent of Christ church, in Canterbury, a weekly market at their manor here, (which has been long disused), and a yearly fair on the 11th of January. There are now two fairs held annually here, on January the 11th, and June 22d." *

THE PLANT, called *morsus diaboli*, *floribus albis et subrusis*, or devil's bit, with white and blush colored flowers,† grows about Appledore.

In the time of Canute, the Manor of Appledore (Apeldres) was in the possession of Eadsy a priest, who on turning monk, had license from that Monarch and his Queen to bestow it on the convent of Christ church Canterbury, where it remained till the dissolution of monastic establishments in the 31st year of Henry the Eighth. Within two years afterwards it was settled on the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, among whose possessions it still remains.

The Church of Appledore, which occupies a small rise on the east side of the village, is supposed to stand on the scite of the

* Hasted's History of Kent, vol. VIII. p. 250.—4.

† For an account of the virtues, &c. of this plant, see Parkin's English Physician, p. 112.

ancient castle, demolished by the French in the year 1380. Before that time it stood midway between Reding Street and Appledore, in a field, which to this day is called "Church Field." The present unsightly structure consists of three aisles, with a square tower at the west end, evidently more antique than the rest of the building. In the reign of Henry the Third, this church, together with the chapel of Ebony, appendant, was attached to the priory of St. MARTIN in Dover, to which it was given by Archbishop Langton, subject to a portion of sixteen marks to the vicar, for his maintenance. On the suppression of the lesser monasteries it became vested in the crown, and by Henry the Eighth, was granted to the see of Canterbury.

The lessee of the parsonage, agreeable to a custom established here, receives four shillings per acre for wheat and two shillings for lent corn, in lieu of all rectorial tythes. The vicarial tythes are sixpence per acre for all uplands, and one shilling per acre for all moor lands, whether sowed or not, and this is supposed to comprehend the tythe of hay also.*

ASHURST, lying to the southward of Bidborough, is a small inconsiderable parish, divided from the county of Sussex on the south and west, by a branch of the Medway. Its surface is various, presenting alternate hill and dale, and towards the west is much wooded: the soil a stiff clay and rather unproductive; it has no village, the houses being interspersed throughout it and but few in number. The church, a very humble edifice with a wooden spire, is situated on the west side of the parish, about a quarter of a mile from the

B 2

* Several litigations concerning tythes, between this church and those of Brookland, Snargate and Kenardington, are to be found among the Lambeth archives; and a composition between the abbot and convent of St. MARTIN, concerning tythes of lands in Horingbroke and Sherle, anno 1247. See Dacarel's Repertory, p. 29.

river, which here separating forms a small island, having a bridge on either side, over which the road leads into Sussex. In this church, before the reformation, was a famous *Rood* or crucifix much resorted to for its supposed miraculous powers; such was the enlightening influence of Popery!!* It has been

* Of this place and its *growing* Idol, Lambarde speaks thus, "In the southwest corner of this Shyre, towards the confines of Sussex and Surry, lyeth ASHURST, a place now a daies so obscure (for it is but a towne of two houses) that it is not worthy the visiting; but yet in olde time so glorious for a *Rode* that it had of rare propertie, that many vouchsafed to bestowe bothe their labour and money upon it. It was beaten (forsooth) into the heades of the common people (as what thing was so absurde, which the clergie coulede not then make the world to believe) that the *Rode*, or crucifix, of this Church, did by certaine increments continually ware and grow, as well in the hush of haire, that it had on the head, as also in the length and stature of the members and bodie itself. By means whereof it came to passe, that whereas the fruites of the benefice weare hardly able to susteine the incumbent, nowe by the benefite of this invention which was in papistrie, (*Novum genus aucupij*) the Parson there was not onely furnished by the offering to live plentifully, but also well ayded towards the makinge of a hoorde, or increase of wealth and riches."

"But as Ephialtes, and Oetus, the Sonnes of Neptune who (as the poets feigne, wared nine inches every moneth) being heaved up with opinion, and conceits of their owne length and haughtines, assaulted heaven, intending to have pulled the Gods out of their places, and were therefore shot through, and slayne with the arrowes of the Gods: even so, when Popish idolotrie was growne to the full height and measure, so that it spared not to rob God of his due honor, and most violently to pull him, as it were, out of his seat, then this growing Idole and all his fellowes, were so deadly wounded, with the heavenly arrowes of the worrde of God (*Qui nunc dabit gloriam suam sculptibus*) that soon after they gave up the ghost and leaft us,"

P. 333—4.

But the Rood of Ashurst was very inferior, both in contrivance and renown, to that at Boxley Abby in this County, of which Lambarde gives the following ludicrous account.

"It chaunced (as the tale is) that upon a time, a cunning Carpenter of our country, was taken prysoner, in the warres betweene us and Fraunce, who (wanting otherwise to satisfie for his ransome, and having good leysure to devise for his deliveraunce) thought it best to attempt some curious enterprize, within the compasse of his owne art and skill, to make him selfe some money

observed that, "the pious frands practised to increase the devotion and liberality of the people, may be regarded as certain, in an order founded on illusions, lies and superstition: The supine idleness also, and its attendant, profound ignorance, with which the convents were reproached, admit of no question;

withall: and therefore getting together fit matter for his purpose, he compacted of wood, wyer, paste, and paper, a Rood of such exquisite arte and workmanship, that it not onely matched in comelynesse, and due proportion of the partes, the beste of the common sorte; but in straunge motion, varietie of gesture, and nimbleness of joyntes, passed all other that before had been seene: the same being able to bowe down, and lift up itself, to shake and stirre the handes and feete, to nod the heade, to rolle the eyes, to wagge the chappes, to bende the browes, and finally, to represent to the eye, bothe the proper motion of eche member of the bodye, and also a lively, expresse and significant shewe of a well contented, or displeased mynde, bytyng the lippe, and gathering a frowning, frowarde, and disdainefull face, when it would preteinde offence: and shewing a most mylde, amiable, and smyling cheare and countenance, when it would seem to be well pleased."

"So that now it needed not Prometheus' fire, to make it a lively man, but onely the helpe of the covetous priests of *Bell*, or the ayde of some craftie college of monkes, to deifie and make it passe for a very God."

"This done, he made a shifte for his libertie, came over into the realme, of purpose to utter his merchandise, and layde the image upon the backe of a jade, that he drave before him. Now when he was come so farre as to *Rochester* on his waye, he wared drye by reason of travaile, and called at an alehouse for drink to refresh him, suffering his horse nevertheless to goe forwarde alone thorowe the citie."

"This jade was no sooner out of sight, but he misde the straight westerne way that his maister intended to have gone, and turning southe, made a great pace towarde *Boxley*, and being driven, as it were, by some divine furie, never ceased til he came at the abbay church doore, where he so bente and bounced with his heeles, that divers of the monkes heard the noyse, came to the place to know the cause, and marveiling at the strangeness of the thing, called the Abbot and his covent to beholde it."

"These good men seeing the horse so earnest, and discerning what he had on his backe, for doubt of deadly impietie, opened the doore, which they had no sooner done, but the horse rushed in, and ranne in great haste to a pillar (which was the verie place where this image was afterwards advanced) and there stopped himself, and stode still. Nowe while the monkes were

and though Monks were the true preservers as well as inventors, of the dreaming and captious philosophy of the schools, no manly or elegant knowledge could be expected among men, whose lives, condemned to a tedious uniformity, and deprived of all emulation, afforded nothing to raise the mind or cultivate the genius."

busie to take off the load, in commeth the carpenter (that by great inquisition had followed) and he chalengeth his owne: the monkes, lothe to loose so beneficiall a stray, at the first make some denyal, but afterwarde, being assured by all signes that he was the very proprietairie, they graunt him to take it with him. The carpenter then taketh the horse by the heade, and first assayeth to leade him out of the church, but he would not stirre for him: then bea- teth he and striketh him, but the jade was so restie and fast nayled, that he would not once remove his foote from the pillar: at the laste he taketh off the the image, thinking to have carried it out by itself, and then to have led the horse after, but that also cleaved so fast to the place, that notwithstanding all that ever he and the monkes also, (which at the length were contented for pities sake to helpe him) coulde doe, it would not be moved one inch from it, so that in the ende, partly of wearinesse in wrestling with it, and partly by persuasion of the monkes, which were in love with the picture, and made him beleeeve, that it was by God himselfe destinate to their house, the carpenter was contented for a peece of money, to go his way and leave the Roode behinde him," p. 182. 5.

This impious piece of mummery (called the *Rood of Grace*) was broke at St. Paul's Cross by Hilsey, Bishop of Rochester, who exhibited to the people, the springs and wheels by which the imposture had been carried on.

"But of all the instruments of ancient superstition, no one was so zealously destroyed as the shrine of Thomas a Becket, commonly called St. Thomas of Canterbury. This Saint owed his canonization to the zealous defence which he had made for clerical privileges; and on that account also the monks had extremely encouraged the devotion of pilgrimages towards his tomb, numberless were the miracles which they pretended his reliques wrought in favor of his devotaries. They raised his body once a year; and the day on which this ceremony was performed, which was called the day of his translation, was a general holiday: every fiftieth year there was celebrated a Jubilee to his hondr, which lasted fifteen days: plenary indulgencies were then granted to all that visited his tomb: and a hundred thousand pilgrims have been registered at a time in Canterbury. The devotion towards him had

The Manor of Ashurst, (with that of Buckland) was part of those lands assigned to Jeffry de Peverel, for his assistance in the defence of Dover Castle, and with other lands made up the barony of Peverel, as it was then called, being held of that castle *in capite* by barony. A court baron is still held for this Manor, and a heriot is paid on the death of a tenant, of the best live beast.

The church of Ashurst was anciently esteemed as an appendage to the Manor, and continued attached to it until the reign of James the First, when Richard Earl of Dorset, alienating the Manor, reserved the church to himself and with his descendants it has continued ever since.

B.

BENENDEN. This parish is principally bounded by those of Cranbrook, Hawkhurst and Rolvenden; it is in extent from east to west about 7 miles, and averages nearly four in width. From its elevated and commanding situation and the abundance of timber in its vicinity, the appearance of the village and the scenery around are rendered particularly pleasing; here the lover of nature will find much to admire, and the artist, some room for the exercise of his talents. In the village, though there is *nothing* particularly worthy of note, there is, at the same time, *nothing* that offends the eye: its appearance is altogether rural and perfectly in unison with the picturesque beauties of its neighbourhood. The principal

quite effaced in that place the adoration of the Deity; nay even that of the virgin. At God's altar for instance, there were offered in one year 8l. 2s. 6d. at the Virgin's 63l. 5s. 6d. at St. Thomas' 832l. 12s. 3d. But next year the disproportion was still greater: there was not a penny offered at God's altar; the Virgin's gained only 4l. 1s. 8d. but St. Thomas had got for his share, 954l. 6s. 3d.!!!" *Hume's England.*

part of the houses which constitute the village are built on the sides of the turnpike road to Rolvenden; on the south side is the village green, called the *play stool*, where the *May* fair is kept* and which formerly was used as a bowling green by the neighbouring gentry, at whose expence it was kept in order; but though this pastime has been long discontinued, the green, much to the credit of the place is not neglected. At the southern extremity and facing the road, stands the church, an object of considerable interest, and on the east side of the green, the neat modern dwelling of the clergyman. The most important feature in this parish is HEMSTED, the seat of Thomas Law Hodges, Esq. to whom also the living of Benenden and perhaps more than two thirds of the parish belong. HEMSTED is unquestionably one of the best wooded estates in the county, and in point of situation unrivalled; the views from it are rich, varied and extensive; the house grounds are disposed with considerable taste and from a judicious concealment of the fences, an idea of extent and capacity is encouraged and an effect produced, extremely imposing: its character on the whole is *grandeur*, and with little alteration Hemsted might be rendered a fit abode even for Royalty. The MANOR of Benenden was among the possessions of the Bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands in this county, it is thus entered in the record of Domesday:—

In Rolvenden hundred, the same Robert (de Romesnil) holds of the bishop, BENINDENE. It is rated at half a souling. The arable is two plough lands. In demesne there is one plough and four villans, with nine bondsmen having two ploughs. There is wood for the pannage of five hogs, and one church. In the time of King Edward the confessor and afterwards, it was worth forty shillings, now fifty shillings. Osier held it of King Edward.

* May the 15th.

Beside the Manor above mentioned, and also belonging to T. L. Hodges, Esq. are those of HEMSTED AND COMBEN, now called CAMDEN.—At Hemsted, Queen Elizabeth was entertained by Sir Thomas Guldeford in her progress through the county, on the 20th day of August, 1575. Speaking of Benenden, Hasted observes, "It has of late years had the improvement of a turnpike road, which leads through it from Cranbrook towards Rolvenden and Tenterden; before which, the roads were so deep in Winter, that within these fifty years, Sir John Norris, whilst he resided at Hemsted, was forced to have his coach drawn to church in the common waggon track, by six oxen one before the other, as the only means of conveyance to it. The soil is mostly a stiff clay, having plenty of marle at different parts throughout it, and in some parts sand." This road from Cranbrook through Benenden and Rolvenden to Tenterden, is *now* excellent and extremely pleasant. At this place is a well conducted Free School, of which and other charitable bequests, a particular account will be found in *Hasted* (vol. VII. p. 180—1); but the industrious poor, have a living and a liberal patroness in the Lady of the present owner of Hemsted.*

The CHURCH, the situation of which has been above described, is dedicated to ST. GEORGE, and consists of a nave, side aisles and chancel, having a square embattled tower at the west end, with a beacon turret. By a storm of thunder and lightning the church was destroyed, December the 29th, 1672, and rebuilt in 1678. The present steeple was erected in 1715; the former one stood *apart*† on the north side of the

C

* Daughter of the Dowager Lady Twicken, of Hunton.

† The *campanile*, or that particular tower allotted for the use of bells, was sometimes a distinct and separate building of itself; but more commonly adjoined to the church, so as to make part of the fabric, usually at the west end. *Monast. Angl.* vol. I. p. 995 line 42.

building; it was built with stone at bottom and the upper parts were composed of wood, of very curious workmanship, having a lofty spire on the top of it.* The church of Benenden was part of the possessions of Combwell Priory in Goudhurst, to which it was appropriated before the reign of Richard the Second. In this state the appropriation (together with the advowson of the vicarage) continued until the suppression of the Priory in the reign of Henry the Eighth, when they passed into the hands of the crown, and there remained 'till the 34th of that reign, when the King granted this rectory and advowson to Sir John Gage, to hold *in capite*; who alienated them shortly after to Sir Thomas Guldeford, and with his descendants they continued, in like manner as Hemsted, 'till they passed by sale with that manor to Thomas Hallet Hodges, Esq. whose son is the present proprietor of them. In the cemetery here, an honorable and just tribute to the memory of John Dean, late steward of T. L. Hodges, Esq. has been paid by that gentleman; the memorial itself is only remarkable as differing essentially from what we usually see in such places, where truth and propriety, unfortunately, are but seldom found. Instances of absurdity in compositions of this kind are neither rare or confined to any one district or county; they are to be met with in all, and were we to set aside all that are wanting in *grammar, sense, or truth*,† but few would remain. We shall only offer two examples in this place; the

* Hasted.

† The following pertinent remarks on the vanity and general impropriety of epitaphs will be found in the Kentish Register for July, 1794.—“The extensive limits of the vanity of man, terminate in an Epitaph. It is, however, often a stronger testimonial of the pride of the living, than of the virtues of the dead. It should hereby seem that falshood is so inseparably blended with humanity, that it follows them even to the tomb, and triumphs still over their ashes. The great expence that frequently accompanies this monumental flattery, has often its source in the design of giving credit to im-

first is that "In Memory of Jane Withers of the parish of Biddenden, *Gent.* beginning "Now I am dead, &c." This, though an old story and sufficiently ridiculous in its original form, is rendered still more so by the *corrections* and *variations* it has undergone in the present edition. The other is in Memory of Henry Williams, Yeoman, with the following *lucid* and *instructive* notice,

"None but my wife doth know of this

"Because our children are all——diamist."

It is sincerely to be regretted that some expedient has not hitherto been adopted, to restrain the effusions of our village poets within the bounds of decency and common sense: surely it cannot be matter of indifference whether these repositories of the dead, become the scenes of serious meditation or of boisterous mirth; but that they are, generally speaking, calculated to excite the latter rather than the former, cannot be disputed.

As an argument in favor of the salubrity of these parts, there are now living (May 1813) in this parish, 50 persons upwards of 70 years of age, 24 above 80, and 3 who have passed their 90th year.

BETHERSDEN contains about 4000 acres of land, is situated southward of Pluckley and at no great distance below the quarry hills. It is wholly within the Weald. The general appearance of the country about Bethersden is by no means pleasing, the situation is low, and the land for the most part flat and unvaried; the soil generally a stiff miry clay, not unproductive under good management, but of expensive culture. One of the principal objections to the farms, in this neigh-

C 2

pasture; and the eulogium graven on marble, in honor of the deceased, is most frequently a portrait which it were to be wished he had resembled, rather than the faithful likeness of what he really was."

bourhood, and of the world generally, is the smallness of the enclosures, and this evil is not likely to be removed while the farms themselves remain of such limited extent. In no part of England is landed property so much and so minutely divided as in the county of Kent; this circumstance though it may be productive of individual benefit and advantage,* is nevertheless a public grievance in some respects; tending to diminish the gross produce of the land, and to the encouragement of a greater number of draught horses, than would, under other circumstances be necessary. The bye ways in this neighbourhood, are but little improved since the time *Hasted* wrote, but the turnpike road from Tenterden through Bethersden to Ashford, has undergone a considerable change for the better; it is now a hard sound road, and passable with equal safety and comfort at all seasons. The following observations by *Hasted*, may serve to shew the improvement made in it within these few years. "The turnpike road (he observes) from Tenterden to Halden, crosses this parish over Bull Green, round which there is a hamlet of houses, towards Great Chart, and thence to Ashford north-eastward; but this road from the natural depth of the soil, and its never having had any improvement made on it since the trust has been created, is, like that part of it at Smarden before described, hardly passable without the greatest danger, during the winter months; indeed there is a causeway, of the greatest use for the safety of travellers, along the side of it throughout this Parish."

* *Hasted* says, "this distribution of freeholds creates a good understanding between the gentry and yeomen, their lands being every where so much intermixed one with the other, obliges them to a mutual civility for their own interest and convenience, nor are the latter so much dependant on the gentry as the inhabitants of most other counties, by copyhold or customary tenures, of which there are very few in it; which state of freedom is productive of good-will and kindness from the one sort to the other, there being no part of the kingdom where the people are more quietly governed, or submit with more pleasure to the laws and magistracy of the country."

There is much coppice wood and good timber interspersed throughout the parish, the houses in which are mostly built round the small greens or forstalls in the different parts of it; a branch of the River Buel^t* which rises not far from hence (near Goldwell in Great Chart) runs along the northern part, in a direction westward, towards Smarden. The church a little removed northward of *Bull Green*, stands on a gentle rise, with the village close adjoining southward; at the east end of which, is a respectable looking house, called *THE THORNE*, (from a large thorn-tree growing near it) and which in the time of Charles the First, belonged to a branch of the family of Whitfield, of Tenterden, one of whom, Francis Whitfield, Gent. resided here and died possessed of it in 1660. It is now, by right of his wife, the property of William Curteis Esq. youngest son of Edward Curteis Esq. of Tenterden.

A Fair is kept here annually on the 31st of July.

Bethereden abounds with a grey turbinated Marble similar to that dug at Petworth in Sussex, and which formerly was much in request for the ornamental parts of the religious and domestic edifices throughout the county. The chimney-pieces in the best apartments and the tombs and monuments of the principal people were usually composed of it; and in the Cathedrals of Rochester and Canterbury this marble abounds, a proof of the high estimation in which it was once held, though now from an alteration in the public taste, or some other cause, it is but little used. It is hard, and durable, (if dug in its perpendicular state) and admits of a high polish.

In the parish of Bethereden lies the manor of OLD SURRENDEEN, so called from being the more antient seat of the Surrenden family, (who were owners here as early as the time of King John,) by one of whom, this manor was alienated to Cardinal

* This, *Hasted* calls the Medway, but is only a feeder of that river, which it enters at Yalding-leas.

Archbishop Kemp, in the reign of Henry the Sixth. It afterwards passed through various families to Philip Choute Esq. standard bearer to Henry the Eighth, at the siege of Boulogne, and who, for his gallant conduct, had assigned to him a canton to his antient coat, of the like bearing as on the standard. This estate now belongs to George Best, Esq. of Chilston.

The manor of BETHERSDEN, or BETHERSDEN LOVELACE, as it was afterwards called from a family of that name, was in early times a possession of the *Grenstedts*, of whom Henry de Grensted was a man of eminent repute in the reigns of Edward the Second and Third. He sold it to William Kinet, Gent. who in the forty first of the latter reign, again conveyed it by sale to John Lovelace, "who here (says Phillipot) erected that structure, that for so many descents hath borne the name of this family, which was the seminary or seed-plot from whence a race of gentlemen issued forth, who have, in military affairs, atchieved reputation and honor, with a prodigal loss and expense both in blood and life; and by their deep judgment in the municipal laws, have deserved well of the commonwealth; and as by their extraction they are descended from noble families, so from hence have sprung those of Bayford, in Sedingbourn and Kingsdown, with the Right Hon. Lord Lovelace, of Hurly, and other gentlemen of the stem in Berkshire. But, alas! this mansion is now like a dial when the sun is gone, that then only is of use to declare that there hath been a sun." *

FRITH or as it is corruptly called *the Frid Farm*, is a manor in the northern part of this parish, but only worthy of note, as the estate from whence the greater portion of the Bethersden marble has been obtained, and which most peculiarly abounds with it. This estate is now in the possession of William Baldwin, Esq. of Harrietsham.

* Colonel Richard Lovelace, an elegant English poet and dramatic writer, who died in 1658, was descended from the Lovelaces of Bethersden.

HACCHESDEN, now called *Eytchden*, is another manor at the north east confines of the parish, and which formerly possessed a chapel. Archbishop Hubert, in the reign of King Richard the first, confirmed the church of Bethersden, together with this chapel, to the priory of St. Gregory, in Canterbury, among the rest of their possessions. The present owner of this manor is the Right Hon. the Earl of Thanet.

WISENDEN is a district, lying at the north west extremity of this parish, and on it is a seat of the same name, which for several centuries has been in the possession of the Witherden family.

The church (dedicated to St. MARGARET) consists of three aisles and three chancels, having a tower steeple, with a beacon turret. In it are several brasses of the Lovelaces, by one of whom, William Lovelace, a mercer and merchant adventurer of London, a chantry chapel was built here on the north side of the chancel, about the 38th of Henry the Sixth. Among the other sepulchral memorials, is one for Sir George Choute, Bart. who died in his 58th year, in February 1721, and several for the family of *Witherden*; as also for the *Dynes*, ancestors of those of Milton, Rochester and Malling, in this county; and of the *Hulses*, formerly proprietors of Lovelace manor.

The vicarage house, which was built of timber and thatched, was burnt down in 1669, and rebuilt of brick, as at present, by Jonathan Whiston, Vicar, in 1676.

BIDBOROUGH is a small inconsiderable village, southward of Tunbridge, from whence it is distant about two miles and a half. In this parish, and on the road from Tunbridge to the Wells is BOUNDS, or as it was formerly written BUNDS, which according to tradition is the boundary in this quarter of that portion of land, known as the *Lowy of Tunbridge*.* The house is

* This was a grant from William Rufus to Gilbert, Earl of Briony and

not large, nor remarkable for architectural beauty, having been built about the time of Elizabeth, (a period of extreme barbarism with respect to taste in architecture) but from age, has something imposing in its appearance. It is situated in a well wooded park, (of about 120 acres) agreeably varied, and presenting a greater diversity of scenery than is usually met with within so limited a compass; the grounds however are still capable of great improvement, and under the guidance of taste, Bounds would certainly become one of the most charming places in the county. The parish church which stands just without its boundary, though a very humble edifice, is still an object of much interest when seen from the park.—The demesne surrounds the park and consists of about 1000 acres.—This place together with the manor of Bidborough† became the property (by purchase) of Sir Thomas Smyth of Sutton at Hone in this county early in the reign of James the First, in whose family it continued until the year 1790, when on the demise of Lady Smyth, relict of Sir Sydney Stafford Smyth, Knight, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, it was sold for the benefit of her relatives and purchased by John,

Esq, because his castle of Brion, had been torn from him by Robert, Duke of Normandy, on account of the Earl's attachment to (his Brother) King William.—*Phillipot.*

But a very different account is given by other writers. See *Tunbridge.*

† The Manor of Bidborough itself had the same owners with that of Tunbridge, ~~as~~ namely, the Earls of Clare, Audley and Stafford, and escheating by forfeiture to the crown upon the attainst of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, in the twelfth year of Henry the Eighth; it was by Queen Elizabeth granted in the first year of her reign, to Henry Carry, Lord Hunsdon, whose son George Carry, Lord Hunsdon dying without issue male, his only inheritrix Elizabeth, married to Thomas, Lord Berkley, linked it to his patrimony, and he in the beginning of King James, conveyed it to Sir Thomas Smyth of Sutton at Hone in this county. The Lord Hunsdon here mentioned is the same to whom Elizabeth granted the Royal Manor of Wye. (*Regale Manerium de Wye*).

Earl of Darnley, by whose mother (the Dowager Lady Darnley) it was inhabited for some years. On her death it became the residence of a yearly tenant, and was lately occupied by Lord Henry Petty, now the Marquis of Lansdowne.

The Person eulogised by Waller under the poetic appellation of *Sacharissa*, was the Lady Dorothy Sydney, who married the grandfather of the Lord Chief Baron; The poem alluded to begins thus;

“Had *Sacharissa* lived when mortals made

“Choice of their Deities, this sacred shade

“Had held an altar to her Power, &c.”

Bounds, during the time of the Lord Chief Baron was the occasional sojourn of the late venerable Earl Mansfield, between whom and the Baron a long and steady friendship appears to have subsisted.

The church is dedicated to ST. LAWRENCE. It is a rectory and was always esteemed as an appendage to the manor of Bidborough, till Lady Smyth gave it by will in 1790 to the Reverend Mr. Venn, who is the present patron of it. It is a discharged living in the King's books, of the clear yearly certified value of forty pounds.

The parsonage house was some years since rebuilt, after a design of one of the Wyatt's.

BIDDENDEN,* lies in the interior of the Weald, within an inclosed and woody district, until of late years almost inaccessible in the winter season, owing to the badness of its roads; but which within the last year or two have undergone considerable improvement, especially that leading from hence to Tenterden. In the warm months of summer the rides

D

* The reduplication of the Saxon term *Den* in the name of this parish, has induced JACOB in his Law Dictionary, to adduce it as his instance. See under the term *Den*.

through these parts of the county must be highly gratifying to a stranger habituated to the dusty and impure atmosphere round the metropolis: while wandering among these secluded scenes, freed from the noise and tumult of the busy world he will naturally be led to exclaim with the poet,

————— "Now from the town
-Buried in smoke, and sleep, and noisome damps,
Oft let me wander o'er the dewy fields,
Where freshness breathes" —————

yet the artist will readily perceive in the scenery of this neighbourhood the want of that variety and contrast so essential to scenic beauty.

The manufacture of broad cloth, once carried on to a considerable extent in this and the adjoining parishes, is now wholly given up; owing chiefly to the increased expence of manual labor and the absence of those numerous advantages afforded by inland navigation, the most fruitful source of industry and wealth. The town of Biddenden, placed on a gentle eminence at the junction of the roads from Tenterden and Cranbrook, and nearly equi-distant from each, is at this time a place of very little trade, and that, confined chiefly to the most common articles of consumption; the traffic in the produce of the land being transferred to the neighbouring towns. The ancient market-house was standing entire within the memory of several persons still living, but not a vestige is now remaining; at what time, or by whom, the grant of this market was obtained, is not known.

Biddenden, for nearly two centuries and a half was the residence of a branch of the Mayney family, descended from Walter de Meduna, a companion of the victorious Norman, and who, as appears by the Red Book in the Exchequer, held twenty knights' fees in the county of Kent. Of this family was the famous Sir Walter de Mayney, equally noted for his piety and valour. The first of them at this place was

Sir John de Mayney, who settled at Biddenden in the beginning of Edward the third's reign, and his descendants continued to reside here until late in the reign of Elizabeth, when, by Sir Anthony Mayney, the PLACE HOUSE and lands were alienated to Sir Edward Henden, one of the Barons of the Exchequer in the time of Charles I. who dying in 1662, was succeeded in this estate by his nephew Sir John Henden, Sheriff of the county in the 22d year of that reign. This family continued to reside here until the reign of George the First, when Willham Henden having dissipated his patrimony, pulled down the greatest part of this seat, and left the poor remains of it, consisting of only three or four rooms and a few acres of the old garden and *park*, to his son, who soon after disposed of his right in this devoted property, to the trustees of Sir Horatio Mann, Bart. the present owner: the remains of the PLACE HOUSE, now tenanted by poor people, stand at the south end of the town, on the right of the road from Tenterden. Nearly opposite is a large fronted house belonging to Mr. Jenkin Hague, also owner of WHITFIELD HOUSE in the south-east part of the parish near Stroud Quarter, and but a little removed from RIVER HALL, the residence of Mr. Richard Beale, whose ancestor of the same name, settled here as a clothier, early in the reign of Charles II. —At the north end of the town stands BIDDENDEN HOUSE formerly belonging to the Pattenson's, but now the property of Mr. Beale: this is one, of three mansions, erected here by Roger Pattenson, Clothier, a native of Yorkshire who settled at Biddenden in the beginning of the sixteenth century, and purchased several estates in this and the adjoining parishes; among which was IBORDEN, situated within the *Denne* of that name, held of the manor of Ashford. The house lies at the distance of about a mile north-west from the church, and is, together with the rest of the estates in this

neighbourhood belonging to the late William Pattenson, Esq. become the property of a gentleman* who, married a relation of the late proprietor, and by whose desire he assumed the name of *Pattenson* on coming to the estate.

LESSENDEN, or LASHENDEN, an estate in the northern part of the parish has had ('till within these very few years) owners of the name of Randolph, for upwards of two centuries. Bernard Randolph, clothier, the most remote possessor of the name, married anno 1587, as appears by the Register, Jane the sister of Sir William Boddenden of this parish, from whose family the estate probably passed to the Randolphs; either by purchase or descent. Bernard Randolph the first owner dying possessed of the estate in 1628, was buried, by his wife, in the chancel of the church just below the steps of the altar, where is a large tomb-stone, with curious brass plates, still in good preservation, commemorating their ages and family. They left five sons and one daughter. The last possessor of the estate of this name was the Reverend Herbert Randolph L. L. B. Prebendary of Salisbury and Rector of Croxton, Lincolnshire, who died April 2d, 1803, and whose eldest son Herbert is the present Rector of Letcombe Bassett, in Berkshire, and Vicar of Chute, in Wiltshire.— Among the individuals of this family may be enumerated the following learned and eminent persons. Edmund Randolph, M. D. of Padua and Oxford; Bernard Randolph, author of an account of the Morea and of the Grecian Archipelago; Herbert Randolph, Esq. Recorder of the city of Canterbury; Herbert Randolph, M. A. Rector of Deal and Woodchurch, eldest son of the above by his first wife Mary, daughter of John Castilion, Dean of Rochester, whose character is thus drawn upon his tomb;

* The Reverend Richard Cooke Tylden, rector of Milsted, and vicar of Frinsted, near Sittingbourne, of which livings he is the patron as well as incumbent.

Pastor bonus, diligens, fidelis,
 Concionator assiduus, eloquens, orthodoxus,
 Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ
 Filius pientissimus
 Minister fidissimus
 Propugnator strenuus.

Dr. Thomas Randolph, (son also of the Recorder by his second wife, daughter of John Blome, Esq.) President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, highly distinguished by his theological writings; George Randolph, M. D. of Bristol, and Francis Randolph D. D. principal of Alban Hall; Oxford. To the above distinguished persons of this family deceased, may be added the present Lord Bishop of London, Dr. John Randolph (son of Dr. Thomas Randolph before mentioned) successively canon of Christ Church Oxford, and regius professor of divinity; Bishop of Oxford, anno 1799; of Bangor 1806; and of London anno 1809.*

THE MANOR OF WACHENDEN within the borough of that name, was among the earliest possessions of Battle Abbey, and probably annexed to it, on its foundation in the time of the Conqueror: in the reign of Henry IV. it was held by Thomas Brickenden, as appears by a deed in the archives of the abbey 'wherein the abbot and convent acknowledge to have received four pounds of Thomas Brickenden, for his ferme of their manor of Wachendenne.'—Thomas Law Hodges, Esq. of Hemsted, is the present owner of this manor for which a court leet is still held.

In this parish, are the hamlets of STANDEN, WOSENDEN-GREEN, and STROUD QUARTER; the former belonging to Edward Austen, Esq. of Godmersham Park, is said to have

* Sir Thomas Randolph employed in several public posts under Queen Elizabeth, as well as Thomas Randolph the dramatic writer, author of the "Muses Looking Glass" a comedy, who died in the year 1634, were probably nearly related to the first of the Randolph's settled at Biddenden.

been "formerly a place of some note;" but on what account does not appear.

A FREE SCHOOL* was founded here by John Mayney in 1522, who endowed it with *certain payments* out of lands in this parish, and in those of Tenterden and Bethersden, amounting to 20l. 3s. 4d.+ per annum. It is under the management of feoffees, and subject to the visitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, but "for want of this interposition," says Hasted, "this endowment has been much abused, and the whole of it is now made a sinecure." It is however but justice to observe that the present state of this school does not answer the description given of it above; for beside the boys who pay for their education, there are generally ten boys on the foundation, and these considering the poverty of the funds, are surely as many as should be imposed on the master. The master besides is bound to repair the school-house out of his scanty stipend.

* See Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, No. 368—15.

+ This, though a handsome endowment in those times, is now from the great increase in *quantity* and consequent diminution in the *value* of money, become of too little importance to deserve the notice of any person, fitted by education for the situation of master; and therefore but few advantages have arisen, of late years, from its establishment. The reverses which these early charitable foundations have experienced, are worthy of notice as furnishing materials for much useful speculation. The difference between *money* endowments and those of *land* is now become so great, that while the former have dwindled into insignificance, the latter have been increasing in a ratio beyond all reasonable anticipation: a striking proof of this may be offered in two similar establishments in this neighbourhood; in the FREE SCHOOLS of Biddenden and Cranbrook. The funds allotted to the former, were, at the period of its foundation, if not splendid, at least handsome, but being fixed and certain, they have been gradually growing more and more insufficient for the purposes for which they were granted: the latter on the contrary, the income of which was at first comparatively insignificant, has (being a landed endowment) from the alteration of times become really respectable: the present annual value of the lands belonging to this school

THE CHURCH, a respectable edifice dedicated to ALL SAINTS, occupies a conspicuous situation at the west end of the town, and consists of a nave, side aisles and chancels; having at the west end a square tower containing 8 bells* and a set of musical chimes; the great western window, and entrance

exceeds 300l. It may not be improper here to enquire what Sum in these times will answer to the annuity, granted to the school of Biddenden in the year 1522. To place this matter in the most simple and clearest light, it will be merely necessary to find what was the average price of wheat in the reign when the school was founded, and this appears to be about 5s. per quarter. The annuity therefore of 20l. 3s. 4d. would then have purchased 80qrs. 5bu. 1gal. and 1qt. of wheat which would now cost the sum of 645l. 6s. 3d.!!! that is, stating the present price of wheat at 40l. per load or 8l. per quarter. It is consequently evident, admitting the criterion here adopted to be just, that 20l. 3s. 4d. in the reign of Henry the Eighth was equal to 645l. 6s. 3d. of our present money. To account for the great seeming disparity of these sums, it will be necessary first to ascertain the intrinsic value of the nominal pound at the former period and the present: now as it does not appear that the quantity of pure silver in the pound was, on the average of the 38 years of the reign of Henry the Eighth, greater than in that of the present time (say 1800), we are obliged to look for some other causes of this difference. It may therefore be attributed partly to the increase of specie, but more to the establishment of a succedaneum, and a very fruitful one, it must be owned, has been discovered. In the adoption of paper currency our government have either stumbled on the philosopher's stone or have acquired the cap of Fortunatus, but whether this should be considered as matter of joy or regret; or, how far the principle may be carried without injury we shall not presume to conjecture.

* On one of the bells of this church, which was cracked but a few years ago was the following inscription, VIRGINIS EGREGIÆ VOCOR CAMPANA MARIÆ, an instance of the superstitious practice of consecrating Bells, which had its rise in the year 1030: about the time of their introduction into our churches. The bell in question was probably of the time of Henry the Eighth or his daughter Mary; and called the Lady Bell, being dedicated to the blessed Virgin. In the life of Latimer we read that Tresham, sub-dean of Christ church, Oxford, in Mary's days, promised to procure for that college the Lady Bell of Bampton; and the great bell of Christ church is known to have been christened by the name of Mary. See on this subject 'The life of Bishop Jewel' in Wordsworth's Biography, vol. IV. p. 28.

though embracing no novelty, are very creditable specimens of taste and workmanship, the other parts of the building are in no wise remarkable. In the church are several memorials of the former principal inhabitants of the parish, as of Sir Edward Henden, (anno 1662,) Richard Allard, Alderman of Rochester (1593,) the Randolphins, Sir William Boddendam, his wife, and family; and the Mayneys, whose altar tombs are in the north chancel: the BRASSES here are numerous and have been more carefully preserved than in any other church within the Weald. This living was held *in commendam* by John Bancroft, Bishop of Oxford, until his death in 1640. In the cemetery are several tombs of the *Pomfrets*, a family of some standing here, and adjoining it on the north side is the parsonage house, the grounds about which have been much improved by the present worthy rector.*

A tradition prevails here that the five fields, called *The Bread and Cheese Land*, the annual rental of which is distributed in bread and cheese on Easter Sunday in the afternoon to the poor of the parish, was the gift of two sisters, commonly called the *Biddenden Maids*, of the name of *Chulkhurst*, that were born *conjoined* and who are stated to have lived in that state 34 years, dying within six hours of each other in the year 1134. To preserve this tradition, small cakes are distributed at the same time to all comers, frequently to the number of 800 or 1000, having a rude impression on them of two females joined together by the hips and shoulders; and with them is also given a sort of hand bill entitled, 'A short but concise account of Elizabeth and Mary Chulkhurst.' This tale which has given rise to much conjecture and excited considerable curiosity, seems after all our enquiry to rest on no authority whatever, for we cannot admit as an evidence of its truth, *the cakes and the account given with them*; as according

* The Rev. Edward Nares, A. M.

to Hasted (vol. VII. p. 138. Edit. 1798) "the print of the women, on the cakes has taken place only within these fifty years:" "the truth," says the same author, "seems to be, that it was the gift of two maidens, of the name of *Preston*;" but on what authority this assertion is made, he has not stated, and indeed it appears as little entitled to credit as the vulgar tradition above mentioned, which probably owes its origin to the doubt and obscurity alone, in which this bequest is involved.* A suit in the exchequer was instituted in 1656 by the Rev. William Horner, Rector, for the recovery of these lands, as having been given *for the augmentation of the glebe*, but failing in proof of his claim, he suffered a nonsuit.† It is not our intention to insist on the impossibility or even improbability of the tale so generally accredited here, as there are some well recorded instances of this kind;‡ but these extraordinary deviations of nature are rare, and should there-

E

* In the chancel, behind the Rector's pew there is a large stone, divided into equal parts by an oblique line, which is reputed to be the burial place of the Biddenden Maids. The surface of the stone is much worn; and no inscription is at this time to be traced on it.

† Among the papers in the parish chest relating to Mr. Horner's suit, is one subscribed by many of the parishioners, appointing another minister from Bethersden to preach the word of God on the Lord's day on a stipend to be paid quarterly, date 1649; name of the minister Keith. His receipt for part of the stipend is at the back. Mr. Horner seems to have been a litigious and troublesome man, and it appears from the papers in the chest, that he had been convicted as a barretor.

‡ The following relation is contained in a MS. in the British Museum, which also contains a representation of this singular prodigy.

"This man was born, as the figure represents him, a perfect man from the head to foot, well proportioned: from his right side issued, a little above his hip, a body of a man, from the middle upwards, perfectly well shaped, with hands, arms and head, very much like his brother's. It was a male child, as was supposed, after he was come to the age of man, by its beard;

fore be admitted with caution. It may be remarked, that a similar tale is told of two females whose figures appear on the pavement of Norton St. Philip Church in Somersetshire.

BILSINGTON. Soon after the disgrace and confiscation of the possessions of the Bishop of Baieux, the **MANOR OF BILSINGTON** which had been granted to that prelate, by the Conqueror, came into the family of Albiní, who held it in sergeantry, 'by the service of performing the office of Chief

which was of the same colour and thickness with his brother's. He could eat and drink with a good appetite, had a very good sight, and could speak as distinctly as his brother. I, James Paris asked, if he could feel whether he had thighs and legs in his brother's body, but he said he felt none, nor his brother felt no motion in his body; neither did it appear by the form of his belly, which was as flat as another man's of the same age and bigness. The whole man held the other up with his right hand.—N. B. I saw these two men the 10th of June 1716; they were aged about twenty three years, as they said." J. P.

I would mention, says Henry, (History of England, book 6. c. 7.) as an instance of credulity, the belief of a monstrous production of the human species, but the concurrence of grave historians § attests and renders the fact *indisputable*. This monster was born in Scotland, and its appearance suggested the idea of twins fortuitously conjoined in the womb, united at the navel into a common trunk, and terminating below in the limbs of a male; but parted above into two bodies, distinct and proportioned in all their parts, each endued with separate members, and animated each by a separate intelligence. Their sensations were common when excited in the loins or inferior extremities; peculiar to one, and unfelt by the other, when produced on the particular body of either. Their perceptions were different, their mental affections inconnected, their wills independant, at times discordant; and again adjusted by mutual concession. They received, by the direction of James IV. such liberal education as the times afforded; attained in music to considerable proficiency and acquired a competent knowledge of various languages. Their death was miserable: at the age of twenty eight the one expired, and his body corrupting, tainted and putrified his living brother.

§ Buchanan, 242. Pitscottie, 103. Hawthornden, 69.

Butler to the King on the day of his coronation.' William de Albini, the first possessor, (eldest Son of William, who came over with the Norman invader) was a man of great courage and bodily strength, and hence obtained the appellation of 'William with the strong hand: '* he was advanced to the Earldom of Arundel, and appears to have held considerable possessions in Norfolk, by Knight's service. On the decease of Hugh, Earl of Arundel and Sussex in the 43d year of Henry III. a partition of this Estate was made in favor of John Fitzalan, Lord of Clan and Osweltre and Roger de Somery, in right of their wives, (daughters of the above Hugh, earl of Arundel,) to the former, that part, since called the *Manor of Bilsington inferior*, comprising nearly two-thirds of the original estate, was apportioned; and to the latter, the residue, which had acquired the appellation of the *Manor of Bilsington superior*, alias *Bilsington Priory*.

E 2

* The occasion of this epithet is thus given by Dugdale.

"It happened that the Queen of France, being then a widow, and a very beautiful woman, became much in love with a Knight of that country, who was a comely person, and in the flower of his youth: and because she thought that no man excelled him in valour, she caused a tournament to be proclaimed throughout her dominions, promising to reward those who should exercise themselves therein, according to their respective merits; and concluding, that if the person she so well affected, should act his part better than others in those military exercises, she might marry him without any dishonour to herself.

"Hereupon divers gallant men, from foreign parts, hastening to Paris, among others came this our William de Albini, bravely accoutred, and in the tournament excelled all others, overcoming many, and wounding one mortally with his lance; which being observed by the Queen, she became exceedingly enamoured of him, and forthwith invited him to a costly banquet, and afterwards bestowing certain jewels upon him, offered him marriage. But having plighted his troth to the Queen of England, then a widow, he refused her: whereat she grew so discontented, that she consulted with her maids how she might take away his life; and in pursuance of that design, enticed him into a garden, where there was a secret cave, and in it a fierce

THE MANOR OF BILSINGTON INFERIOR, was held in sercentry in the reign of King Edward III. 'by the service of presenting three maple cups at the King's coronation;' and at the time of the coronation of King Charles II. by the additional service 'of carrying the last dish of the second course to the King's table'. The former service was performed by Thomas Rider, Esq. (afterwards knighted) at the coronation of his present majesty, "when the King on receiving the maple cups from the lord of this manor, turned to the Mayor of Oxford, who stood at his right hand, and having received from him for his tenure of that city, a gold cup and cover, gave him these cups in return." *—The scite of the Court Lodge, surrounded by a deep moat, adjoins the churchyard westward.

THE MANOR OF BILSINGTON SUPERIOR, was sold by Roger de Somery to the celebrated John Mansel, chaplain, chancellor and keeper of the privy seal to Henry III. a man of considerable abilities, and great courage; but more remarkable for his wealth and luxurious mode of life.† While provost of Beverley,

lion, into which she descended by divers steps, under colour of shewing him the beast. And when she told him of his fierceness, he answered, that it was a womanish, and not a manly quality, to be afraid thereof; but having him there, by the advantage of a folding door, thrust him in to the lion. Being therefore in this danger, he rolled his mantle about his arm, and putting his hand into the mouth of the beast, pulled out his tongue by the roots; which done, he followed the Queen to her palace, and gave it to one of her maids to present to her."

"Returning therefore into England with the fame of this glorious exploit he was forthwith advanced to the Earldom of Arundel, and for his arms the lion given him; nor was it long after, that the Queen of England accepted him for her husband, whose name was Adeliza (or Alice) widow to King Henry I. and daughter to Godfrey Duke of Lorrain; which Adeliza had the castle of Arundel, and county, in dowry from that King."

† Hasted.

† Mathew Paris mentions as an instance, that he entertained at dinner, the Kings of England and Scotland, a multitude of nobles and prelates, and

be founded at this place, a Priory for Canons regular of the order of St. Augustine, and gave this estate among others towards its endowment. In the farm house and offices considerable remains of the Priory are still to be seen, but they are little deserving of notice; the situation is pleasant, lying under shelter of the clay hills, backed with extensive woods, and commanding on the south, an uninterrupted view over the marsh. These Estates are now the property of Ingram Rider, Esq. of Boughton Monchelsea, who also holds the right of presentation to the living, which since the suppression of the Priory has been considered as a perpetual curacy.

The village, called Bilsington Cross, consists of about half a dozen dwellings and a small public house; it lies on the southern declivity of the hill, at the distance of a quarter of a mile from the military canal, and on the road from Limne to Warehorne. The church stands a little to the eastward and nigher the marsh. It is a small building (dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul) consisting of a nave and chancel and at the west end a square tower with a pointed shingled roof; the body of the building contains 14 pews and in the chancel are four stalls.

BONNINGTON, usually called *Bunnington*, is situated on the clay hills, extending southward into the level of Romney Marsh, and at the eastern confines of the Weald. Its situation is far from pleasant, and as it possesses nothing to amuse the eye, or gratify the research of the antiquary is but little frequented. The soil, for the most part is a deep clay, and the roads none of the best, though somewhat improved of late years owing to the military canal. In the north west part of the parish, is a considerable portion of underwood.

The village, usually called Bonnington Cross, stands on elevated ground, and at no great distance is the church, nearly

such a number of guests, that seven hundred dishes were scarcely sufficient for the first course.

at the bottom of the hill, one meadow alone dividing it from Romney Marsh, the proximity of which can add but little to the salubrity of the air of Bonnington. Not far from the cross is a small forestall, with several houses round it, and northward is Bonnington Common over which the road leads to Aldington Corner where the quarry-stone begins. The southern part of this parish is within the level of Romney Marsh, the bounds are at the foot of the hill just below the church, as above described. There used to be a court leet holden here for the boroughs of Bonnington and Hamme, at which the borsholders* of those boroughs were elected, but it has been discontinued ever since the middle of Queen Elizabeth's reign, only the memory of it remains, by a large oak standing on the highway where it used to be held, and from thence called the Law-day oak.

The manor of Bonnington was, soon after the conquest, part of the possessions of Hugo de Montfort, and is thus entered under the general title of his lands in the record of Domesday:

William Son of Grosse, holds of Hugh, Bonintone. Norman

* "The subdivision of hundreds into tythings seems to be most peculiarly the invention of Alfred the Great, and is a branch of that admirable system of government he introduced, and which modern refinement but vainly attempts to improve. The realm being divided into shires, these shires subdivided into lathes, as in Kent; rapes in Sussex; trithings or ridings in Yorkshire; these again into hundreds, and the hundreds into tithings, composed of ten freemen, every inhabitant of which was security for the good behaviour of the other, and a man whose credit was so low that his neighbours would not become pledges for him, was committed to prison lest he should become hurtful to the community. In Kent, the division, which in many counties was called a tithing, is termed a Borow, from the Saxon word *Berk*, which signifies a pledge or surety, and the chief of the pledges a borsholder, or boroughs-caldre, that is, the discreetest man in the borough, or tithing, as in cities he is called the Ealderman, or Alderman."—*Continuation of the Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica*, vol. II. p. 2. and 3.—*See also Hume's England*, vol. I. *Alfred*.

held it of King Edward, and it was taxed at one suling, (*sowling*)* the arable land is four carucates.† In demesne there is one, and nine villeins, with four borderers (bondsmen) having two carucates. There is a church, eight servants, (ministers) and wood for the pannage of eight hogs. In the time of King Edward the Confessor it was worth four pounds, and afterwards three pounds, now one hundred shillings.

On the voluntary exile of Robert de Montfort, grandson of Hugh above mentioned, in Henry I. reign, this manor, among the rest of his estates, fell into the King's hands as an escheat and afterwards became part of the possessions of the Knight's hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem; the prior held it by Knight's service of the castle of Dover, being part of those lands which made up the barony called the *constabularie*. This manor was afterwards divided into two parts, one of which, acquired the name of *Bonnington*, alias Singleton, and the other simply *the manor of Bonnington*. Sir Thomas Lombe, Alderman of London died possessed of it in 1739, leaving two daughters his coheiresses, the one married to Sir Robert Clifton, and the other to the Earl of Lauderdale. It was Sir Thomas Lombe who introduced into this kingdom from Savoy, a most curious machine for working Italian organzine silk, for which he obtained a patent in 1718, and in 1732 had a reward of 14,000*l.* granted him by parliament.—

* A *sowling* is 160 acres, Cheshire measure, equal to 335.7 statute acres. Translation of *domesday* by Henshall and Wilkinson, p. 4. note c.

† By four *carucates* is here intended four *plough lands*, that is 24 acres, the *plough land* being 6 acres and $26\frac{2}{3}$ making a *sowling*.

But in the counties not admeasured by *SOWLINES* and *HIDES*,|| a *CARUCATE* (properly so called) is equal to them. In this instance (taken from Hasted) the word in the original has been misunderstood. See in the work above mentioned, p. 12 note b. and the entry of this manor, p. 103.

|| The *hide* is equal to the Kentish *sowling*—*ibid.*—But Gervase of Tilbury says, it commonly contained about 100 acres.

This manor is now held by D. Papillon, Esq. of Acrise.

The church (dedicated to St. RUMWOLD),* consists of an aisle and chancel. It has no steeple, but a pointed turret is raised on the roof at the west end, containing one bell. The advowson of the rectory passed as an appendage to the manor of Bonnington till the dissolution of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, in the 32d of Henry VIII. when it came to the crown, and within two years afterwards was granted by that monarch to Arthur Stringer, from whose descendant it passed into the name of Kempe, and Sir Thomas Kempe, of Ollantigh, was owner of it in the 21st of Elizabeth, from him it passed to Sir James Hales, then owner of the manor, in which chain of ownership, the manor and advowson, have continued down to the present time.

There is a modus of one shilling an acre on the marsh land in this parish.

BOUGHTON MALHERBE. The name of *Boughton* or rather *Bocton* as it was originally spelt, is probably derived from the Saxon words *Boc* and *Ton*, the former signifying a charter or grant, and the latter a town or parish;† but the addition of *Mulherbe*, it obtained in the reign of King John,

* An effigy of St. RUMWOLD was among the curiosities of Boxley Abbey and was made instrumental in carrying on the farce of 'the gracious rood.' This infant saint, according to tradition did many miracles; he professed himself a christian at the moment of his birth, and having discoursed cunningly and explained certain mysteries of the Romish church, left this world after a stay of three days!! He was born according to report at King's Sutton in Northamptonshire and buried at Buckingham, which place in the early Saxon times became, on that account, celebrated and was much benefited by the number of pilgrims who resorted thither to make offerings at his shrine. —A description of the use made of the effigy of St. RUMWOLD by the monks of Boxley is given by Lambarde, p. 186—9. where a translated extract from a work entitled *Nova Legenda Anglia*, declaring his parentage, nativity and death, will be found.

† *Hasted.*

from a family of that name, who then possessed the manor, this addition having been made to distinguish it from other places of a like appellation in the county; and not as KILBURN conjectures, from the poverty of the pasturage.

Boughton Malherbe lies nearly in the centre of the county, between Ulcomb on the west, and Egerton on the east, and like those parishes extends partly into the vale between the chalk and quarry hills, and partly into the WEALD southward. On the east of the church, seated on the brow of the hill, is the parsonage house, a neat building pleasantly situated; and adjoining the church-yard westward, are the small remains of BOUGHTON PLACE, the mansion of the WOTTONS, now dwindled into insignificance; what is now standing has been converted into a barn: it is of brick and displays some excellent workmanship; on a sunk pannel it has the date 1579.

The manor house of Bocton was built by Robert Corbie, Esq. father of the Sheriff of that name, in the 8th year of Richard II. who had obtained of Edward III. a license to embattle and fortify his mansion at this place. By marriage with Joane, daughter of the sheriff, this estate was carried to Nicholas Wotton Esq. twice Lord Mayor of London, "whose descendants" says Hasted "flourished in this parish for many generations afterwards; and for their learning, fortune, and honors, at times when honors were really such, may truly be said to have been ornaments to their country in general, and to this county in particular." But this place has become chiefly celebrated as the birth place of the accomplished Sir Henry Wotton, whose life, written by Isaac Walton is attached to the *Reliquiæ Wottonianæ*. In this work, speaking of the family generally, he says. "The Wottons were a family that brought forth divers persons eminent for wisdom and valour, whose heroic acts, and noble employments, both in England and in foreign parts, have adorned themselves and this nation, which they have served abroad *faithfully*, in discharge of their great

trust, and *prudently* in their negociations with several Princes; and also served at home with much honor and justice, in their wise managing a great part of the public affairs, in the various times both of war and peace." Sir Robert Wotton, grandson of Nicholas Wotton, Esq. was lieutenant of Guisnes and comptroller of Calais, where he died and lies buried; and his son and heir Sir Edward, was treasurer of Calais and a member of the privy council in the reign of Henry VIII. who, "offered him" says Holingshed, "to be Lord Chancellor of England; but out of a virtuous modesty he refused it." * To him succeeded his eldest son Thomas Wotton, Esq.† equally renowned for his hospitality, his acquirements and manly independence. He was twice Sheriff, and had the honor of entertaining Queen Elizabeth in her progress through the county in 1573; from whom, says Walton, he received "many invitations to change his country-recreations and retirement, for a court;" at the same time the offer of knighthood, "as an earnest of some more profitable employment: yet he humbly refused both,‡ being a man of great modesty, of most plain and single heart, of an ancient freedom and integrity of mind." He was twice married and

* Chronicles. *An. Reg. Eliz.* 27. Holinshed also states, that Dr. Nicholas Wotton, fourth son to the above mentioned Sir Robert, and some time Dean of Canterbury, refused to be Archbishop of that see, when that high dignity was offered to him by Queen Elizabeth, to whom he was Privy Counsellor, as he had been also to Henry VIII. Edward VI. and Queen Mary.

† This gentleman according to Hasted, "was closely imprisoned in the fleet, in 1553, by Queen Mary, under pretence of his religion, but really at the request of his uncle (brother) Dr. Nicholas Wotton, on account of a dream he had had in France, where he was there ambassador, and this in all likelihood saved Mr. Wotton's life: for whilst he was in prison, Wyatt's rebellion broke out, in which he had most probably been concerned, had he not been confined there." *Hist. of Kent*, vol. 5. p. 402.

‡ It appears however by his epitaph that he did afterwards accept the honor of knighthood.

had four sons all of whom were knighted. Sir Edward the eldest was comptroller of the Household to Queen Elizabeth, which office, with that of treasurer, he held under her successor James I. by whom he was created Lord Wotton, Baron of Marley, and in the succeeding year appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county, and a member of the Privy Council. In the reign of Elizabeth he was one of the representatives of the county in Parliament, and in the 36th year of that reign served the office of Sheriff. James the second son, was knighted for his gallantry at the siege of Cadiz. And Sir John, the third, is described as highly accomplished, both by 'learning and travel; but death, in his younger years, put a period to his growing hopes.'

SIR HENRY WOTTON, the youngest son and only child by the second marriage, received the rudiments of his education from his mother (the daughter of Sir William Finch, Knight, of Eastwell) and after some further tuition under a home tutor, was sent to Westminster School and subsequently to New College, Oxford, from whence he removed to Queen's, where he took the degree of Master of Arts; and where according to his biographer, "he gave a solid testimony of his future abilities:" he here delivered three latin lectures, *De Oculo* which gained him considerable reputation, and the particular esteem of the *Law Professor*, (Albericus Gentilis). At the age of twenty two, he left college, "when having" says Walton, "to his great wit, added the ballast of learning, and a knowledge of the arts, he then laid aside his books, and betook himself to the useful library of travel, and a more general conversation with mankind; employing the remaining part of his youth, his industry, and fortune, to adorn his mind, and to purchase the rich treasure of foreign knowledge; of which, both for the secrets of nature, the dispositions of many nations, and their several laws and languages, he was the possessor in a very large degree."* On his leaving

F 2

* Reliquiæ Wottonianæ.

Oxford, he travelled into France, Germany, and Italy; where having spent about nine years, he returned to his native country and became secretary to the ill-fated Earl of Essex, in which situation he continued until the arrest of that nobleman; when he again left England and retired to Florence. Here his merits were not long hid to the great Duke; who having discovered that a conspiracy was on foot to assassinate James, the then King of Scots, he entrusted Sir Henry with letters to that monarch, which under the disguise of an Italian, and the assumed name of *Octavio Baldi* he delivered without interruption, and much to the satisfaction of his employer. On the accession of James to the throne of England, his services were not forgotten; he was invited home, immediately knighted and afterwards employed on several important embassies: he was thrice ambassador to the republic of Venice, once to the United States, twice to the Duke of Savoy, and once to the Princes of the Upper Germany in the convention of Hailbrun; he was also dispatched to the emperor Ferdinand II. and other of the German Princes to incline them to favor the cause of the Queen of Bohemia.* For this illustrious and unfortunate female, the object of universal admiration, "Sir Henry Wotton" says a late writer "appears to have felt the strongest attachment: his elegant lines, addressed *To his mistress the Queen of Bohemia*."

* The Queen of Bohemia was daughter to James I. and consort of Frederick the Elector Palatine, chosen King by the states of Bohemia, in opposition to Ferdinand II. but soon expelled by that monarch; who levying a considerable force under the command of the Duke of Bavaria, and the Count of Bucquoy advanced into Bohemia and there obtained the decisive battle of Prague; while Spinola with an army of thirty thousand men invaded the Palatinate and meeting with but little resistance, except from one English Regiment, commanded by the brave Sir Horace Vere, soon reduced the greater part of that principality.—On the loss of the battle of Prague, the elector, and his family were under the necessity of seeking an asylum in Holland; deprived not only of his kingdom, but his inheritance.

mia,* at once evince the greatness of his admiration, and the brilliancy of his own powers." On his return from his foreign employments, about the year 1623 he was made Provost of

* The following are the lines alluded to.

You meaner beauties of the night,
That weaklie satisfie our eies,
More by your number than your lighte,
Like common people of the skies,
What are you when the moon doth rise?

Yee violettts that first appear,
Your pride in purple garments showne,
Takeinge possession of the yeare,
As if the springe were all your owne,
What are you when the rose is blowne?

Yee glorious trifles of the east
Whose lustres estimations raise,
Pearles, rubies, sapphires, and the rest,
Of precious caskets, whats your praise,
When the diamond shews his rayse?

Yee warblinge chanterers of the wood,
That fill the eares with nature's laies,
Thinkinge your passions' understood,
By weaker accents, whats your praise,
When philomell her voice doth raise?

Soe when my princess shall be seene,
In sweetness of her looks and minde,
By virtue first, then choice, a queene;
Tell me if she were not design'd,
Th' eclipsinge glory of her kynde?

The rose, the violetts, the whole springe,
For sweetness to her breath must runne:
The diamond's darken'd in the ringe;
If shee appeare, the moon's undone,
As with the presence of the sunne.

Eton College, where he spent the remainder of his days, dying at the age of 72, in December, 1639.

Sir Edward (the elder brother) first Lord Wotton* embarked the grounds round his mansion at Boughton and dying in 1628 was succeeded by his only son Thomas Lord Wotton, who survived him but two years. On a division of his possessions among his four daughters and coheiresses "the manor of Boughton, with the mansion of Boughton-Place, and the advowson of the rectory, were, among other estates, allotted to the eldest daughter, the lady Catherine, in whose right her husband, Henry Lord Stanhope became possessed of them."† On the decease of Lord Stanhope "this lady, who was afterwards created Countess of Chesterfield, remarried John Vanden Kerkhoven, Lord of Henulflet, in Holland; by whom she had one son, Charles Henry, created Lord Wotton in 1650: he dying in 1683, bequeathed the estates he had inherited from his mother, to his nephew, Charles Stanhope, with divers remainders in tail male; and under this will, Philip Dormer Stanhope, the witty and profligate Earl of Chesterfield, became possessed of them in the reign of George I. He disposed of them in 1750, to Galfridus Mann, Esq. whose son Sir Horatio Mann, Bart. is now owner."

Below the hill towards Egerton, lies the manor of Colbridge, which in the reign of Henry III. was in the family of Peyforer, one of whom, Fulke de Peyforer, obtained a grant of free warren for his lands here, in the time of Edward I. and in the

* It was during the time of the first Lord Wotton, that Nicholas Wood the glutton (a native of Harrietsham) is said to have devoured at his lordship's house at Boughton, at one meal, *eighty four rabbits*, "which number says his biographer" would have sufficed one hundred and sixty men!!

For a description of this monster see 'Anecdotes of eminent persons, &c.' in two vols.—vol. II. p. 10.

† Hunted.

ensuing reign, a license to embattle and fortify his mansion at Colbridge, which hence obtained the appellation of *Colbridge Castle*. Little more than the scite of this once considerable edifice is now discernible, the materials having been appropriated to the building of *Chilson*,* or rather of *BOUGHTON PLACE*, before spoken of.

In the church (dedicated to ST. NICHOLAS) are many memorials of the Wotton family. Among them is the *splendid* marble monument, of Sir Thomas Wotton. The chancel contains several large and curious brasses of this family; on a centre stone are the effigies of a man and woman, kneeling; behind the former are three boys, and behind the female figure seven girls: near this is another slab on which are brasses of two persons in the act of prayer, over whom are two escutcheons with armorial bearings. But the most costly monument, is that for Sir Edward Wotton, erected about the close of the fifteenth century, and perfectly characteristic of the execrable taste of that period. Opposite the last, is that, to the memory of the Rev. Robert Foote, M. A. and below on the pavement lies an effigy (*in alto*) of Fulke de Peyforer. On the floor under the gallery is the following inscription, alike honorable to the object and the author of it:

"Here lyeth interred the body of Edmond Sandford, Gent, servant and kinsman to Mary Lady Wotton, Baronesse of Marly, who laid over him this tombstone for continuance of his memory, precious as perfumed ointment, for the constancy of his profession of religion, and the fidelity of his service to the said lady and family, to the very time and the surrender of his soul to his Redeemer, being the 35th year of his age, October, 29th.

Anno Redemptionis humanæ, 1652.

Over the porch on the south side of the church is the *Cross* as in the times of popery.

* Chilson or Chilston, the seat of George Best, Esq. between Boughton and Lenham.

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA or MONCHENSIE, part of which only is within the *Weald*, lies on the lower or southern ridge called the Quarry hills, that cross this parish in a direction nearly east and west, the summit of them being the northern boundary of the Weald; so much therefore as lieth northward is without its limits.—The church is placed on the south side of the hill, about midway down, and the views from it over the well-wooded grounds of Boughton Place, which adjoin the church-yard, are extremely fine. From hence the parish extends into the Weald towards the River Beult, which, passing Stile-bridge, flows on to Yalding where it joins the Medway. The soil on the hill is a fertile loam on a bed of Kentish rag-stone, of which there are considerable quarries in the parish, and hence, in the immediate neighbourhood this place is frequently called *Boughton quarry*; towards *Cock Street*, a hamlet lying on the heath, a variation in the surface soil is perceptible, becoming much redder and intermixed with rotten flints; and at the bottom of the hill southward, it assumes a different appearance altogether, being a dark stiff clay, similar to that generally found in the lower parts of the Weald. A little to the southward of Boughton Cock, is the parsonage, with some coppice wood adjoining, and on the brow of the hill, at the eastern extremity of the parish, *Wiar-ton* the seat of the Rev. Sir John Head, Bart. commanding an extensive and beautiful prospect of the Weald.

Boughton, was part of those possessions granted by William the Conqueror to Odo, bishop of Baieux, who was created Earl of Kent, and under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the Domesday book.

Hugh, grandson of Herbert, holds of the bishop of Baieux, Boltone. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is two carucates. In demesne there is nothing. But five villiens have carucates there, and two acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of twenty hogs. There is a church. In the time of

King Edward the confessor, and afterwards, it was worth eight pounds, now six pounds. Aluin held it of Earl Godwine.

After the disgrace of Odo, this manor came into the possession of the family of Montchensie, called in Latin records *De monte Canisio*; whose principal seat was at Swanscomb in this county. From them it descended to the Houghams of Hougham, and subsequently to Robert Rudston, Esq. (son of Sir John Rudston, Lord Mayor of London in 1528, a family originally of Yorkshire). This latter, who was concerned with Sir Thomas Wyatt in his unfortunate rebellion, was, among others found guilty and condemned to be executed; but which sentence, Mary, was pleased to alter,* and on the accession of Elizabeth, he was again restored to his possessions. About 1670 this manor and estate became by marriage the property of Thomas Rider, Esq. (descended from those of Low Layton in Essex) in which family it hath since continued. The MANSION is of stone and partially embattled.

WIARTON, of which some mention has been made above, was formerly the residence of a family of the same name. Adam de Wiarton possessed it in the reign of King Henry III. and with his descendants it continued 'till the latter end of the reign of Richard II.

G

* Four hundred persons are said to have suffered for this rebellion; four hundred more were conducted before the Queen, with ropes about their necks; and falling on their knees, received a pardon, and were dismissed. Wyatt was condemned and executed. (Hume).

The following brief character of Mary, is by the same author; "naturally of a sour and obstinate temper, and irritated by contradictions and misfortunes, she possessed all the qualities fitted to compose a bigot; and her extreme ignorance rendered her utterly incapable of doubt in her own belief, or of indulgence to the opinions of others."

"HOLBROOK is a manor in this parish which formerly belonging to a family of the name of Halbrook, as appears by several old deeds and court rolls; who having continued owners of it for several descents, became extinct here about the beginning of King Henry V. reign, when it came into the possession of William Hant, Esq. of Bishopsbourne, whose descendant, Sir William Hant, in the reign of Henry VIII. left two daughters and coheirs, of whom Jane, the youngest, married Sir Thomas Wyatt,* of Allington Castle." This manor and estate is now in the possession of Mrs. A. M. Disney.—The reversion of it is vested in James Smyth, Esq. of Lested in Chart Sutton.

On the opposite or northern side of Coxheath, lies BOUGHTON MOUNT formerly called *Wycheden*, the grounds of which are watered by the stream that rises near Langley Park, and which, losing itself under ground, rises again in the quarries here, and flowing on through Loose, falls into the Medway a little above Maidstone.

The CHURCH (dedicated to ST. PETER) comprises a nave and chancel, with a single aisle, on the north side, in which are some memorials of the Ryder family. It was given to the priory of Leoda soon after its foundation by Henry de Boccon, and was afterwards appropriated to it by license from the Archbishop of Canterbury before the reign of Richard II. and remained part of the possessions of that priory 'till its dissolution; when Henry VIII. settled both the parsonage and advowson

* The manor of Boughton before spoken of was also the property of Sir Thomas Wyatt, who alienated it to Robert Rudston. He was father of the unfortunate Sir Thomas Wyatt, and a person eminent for his learning and accomplishments. Anthony Wood calls him the *delight of the muses and of mankind*, and Leland, in his poem, (Ath. Oxon. vol. I. p. 56.) styles him *incomparabilis*, and highly celebrates his praises. He was a great favorite of Henry VIII. and by a *bon mot* raised the King's courage to go forward with the Reformation, by telling him, it was a hard thing a man could not repeat without the pope's leave.

on his new erected Dean and Chapter of Rochester, with whom they now remain. The cemetery here, encompassed by luxuriant forest trees, and removed from the busy scenes of life, is admirably calculated to encourage serious meditation; while the peep afforded on the east side over the grounds of Boughton Place; the water in the bottom; the deer at feed; and the varied and extensive scenery which forms the back ground, altogether compose a picture of unusual interest.

BRECHLEY, which in old deeds is written BRANCHESLE, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, BRÆNCESLE, lies the next parish eastward of Pembury. The soil in it is various, being in some parts light and sandy, and in others a stiff churlish clay. On the hill where the village stands, it is of the former description, which is continued mostly over the northern parts of the parish and towards Horsmonden green; and the remainder a heavy tillage soil, but not unfertile.

This parish is for the most part skirted with woodlands, which as well as the hedge-rows *still* contain no inconsiderable portion of fine thriving oak. The great and rapid increase in the value of timber of late years, has very much reduced its quantity, and whatever might have been the case formerly, there are but few estates now that can be said to be *encumbered* with timber.* Hasted speaking of this parish

G 2

* The extraordinary price of timber, has held forth such a temptation to the avaricious or needy proprietor, that on many estates throughout England, that which could by *ingenuity* be construed into timber, has been hewn down and brought to market without any reference to its age or condition. The impolicy, not to say injustice, of such conduct, must *one* would suppose be sufficiently evident; and yet we see persons who on other occasions are not wanting in forecast and prudence; guilty of it: may it not be attributed to the *sudden* rise in the value of timber, rather than the price itself? for had the price slowly and gradually increased, it is a question whether room would have been afforded for such a complaint: but eager to

says "it has a dreary and gloomy aspect," which he attributes to the abundance of wood land, and "the quantities of large spreading oaks throughout it." However it might have been in his time, it is not *now* overdone in these respects, nor is its appearance such as he describes. The general appearance of this parish, is rather *cheerful* than *gloomy*, possessing no more timber, than barely sufficient for the purpose of embellishment, the roads also appear to have undergone some change for the better since that time.

catch a price, which it was supposed the peculiarities of the times and the protracted warfare we are engaged in, *alone* gave rise to, and which it was concluded must fall, as soon as these causes were removed; men were led to overlook the injustice of their conduct to the public, and from the momentary impulse of avarice, to act in direct opposition to their own *individual* interest. How far, in such cases it would be advisable for the legislature to interfere, we shall not pretend to determine; but if every landed proprietor, who fells a tree on his estate, was by law obliged to plant *two* in its stead and at the same time bound to protect their growth, it would, in our humble opinion, be requiring no more of them than reason and common justice warrant. This it may be said, would be to deprive the subject, of a portion of that freedom, which as an Englishman, he considers as his birth-right, the right of doing what he pleases with his own; but it should be remembered that there is a common right as well as an individual one, and *that* society must be badly constituted, which can long tolerate a power in the individual that militates against the public good. When Lord Erskine brought forward his bill for *suppressing the abuse of animals*, did any friend to humanity or rational liberty, consider it as an attack on his freedom, or an infringement of his natural rights? No, and it was therefore wisely determined to render those amenable to human laws, who were not to be restrained by moral ones. The application we leave.

Throughout the Norman dynasty and for nearly a century subsequent, the proprietors of lands were restrained from cutting wood on their estates and using it at their pleasure, and these arbitrary restrictions were not removed until the reign of Henry III. at which time also some important alterations took place in the forest laws; which for upwards of a century and a half had been the abhorrence of the subject, and an instrument of terror and oppression in the sovereign.

The village is pleasantly seated on a hill, the turnpike road leading through it towards Horsmonden, Goudhurst, and the southern parts of the Weald. The houses are mostly large well-timbered buildings, and some few of respectable appearance.

The church and parsonage are situated at the south end of the village, and at a small distance eastward is a seat called **BROAD OAK**, which in the reign of Elizabeth belonged to George Paine, whose heirs in 1698 alienated it to Mr. John Hooker of West Peckham, and with his descendants, of the same name, it still continues.

At Matfield-green, about a mile westward of the village, is the residence of Mr. Bold Merchant, built about eighty years since: in which family the estate has continued for some generations. A little removed eastward from Broad-Oak, and at the summit of Castle-hill, stands the remarkable toll of trees, called Brenchley-toll, observable for many miles round the country: and in an adjoining wood are the traces of a square mote, enclosing between three and four acres of land, but of which, tradition is silent; the wood and farm are the property of ——— Monckton, Esq. and are supposed anciently to have been annexed to some considerable manor. There is also another mote or entrenchment in this parish, of great width and depth, the enclosed area of which does not appear quite so large as that above mentioned, but which no doubt formerly encompassed some building of considerable strength and consequence, though no vestige of it at present remains, nor any name of distinction attached to the estate on which it is situated.

The manors of **BRENCHLEY** and **CRIOLS**, the former of which was part of the possessions of the noble family of Clare, whose descendants were afterwards Earls of Gloucester and Hertford; and the latter, in the time of Henry III. in the possession of a family of the same name; were both alienated in the 20th year of Queen Elizabeth by William Sydnor, the

Then proprietor, to William Lambarde, Esq. of Greenwich, (the perambulator) in whose descendant Moulton Lambarde, Esq. of Sevenoaks, these manors are now vested.

THE MANOR OF MASCALLS, formerly *Marescalls*, with its two appendants COPGROVE and CHEKESWELL, are situated near the northern boundary of the parish.

The *first*, in the reign of Edward II. was owned by the family of Colepepper and held of the Lord Hugh de Audley, as of his honor of Tunbridge, by the service of paying yearly at his larder *eight hogs and a half, value fifteen shillings*.

COPGROVE, (the second) was in the possession of a family of the same name from which descended John Copgrove or Copgrove, the famous friar eremite of St. Augustine, S. T. P. of Oxford, and afterwards provincial of his order in England. The extraordinary talents of this man secured him the patronage of Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, under whose auspices, his works were published; he died at Lynn in Norfolk in 1484. (Tan. Bib. Brit. p. 162. and Stev. Mon. vol. II. p. 219).

About the time of Edward I. or early in the reign of his successor, the owners of Copgrove became also possessed of Chekeswell, which subsequently were part of the possessions of the ill-fated Edward, Duke of Buckingham, executed for high treason in the reign of Henry VIII. soon after whose attainder these manors were granted to John Lyghe, who died seized of them in the 15th year of that reign.

PARROCK another manor, was formerly an appendant to that of West Malling, given by Gundulph, Bishop of Rochester, in the 4th year of William Rufus, to the benedictine nunnery founded there by him about that time. This manor afterwards, by exchange became the property of Archbishop Cranmer.*

* Thomas Cranmer Archbishop of Canterbury, was born 1489, and burnt at Oxford, March 21st, 1555. This martyr to protestantism is not only memorable for his melancholy end; but equally so for his learning and his

A court baron is still held for it.

MOATLANDS, or as it was sometimes called *Le Moat*, was a part of the possessions of the Pimpe family; but which in the 19th year of Henry VII. was divided between the two sons of Walter More, Esq. of Benenden; the line of separation crossing the moat and the foundations of the old mansion. *That part of Moatlands* to which the manorial rights are annexed, is now in the possession of the Rev. John Cramer Roberts, of Glassenbury, and the other is vested in the proprietor of Broad-Oak, John Hooker, Esq.

Beside the above, are the manors of Stocks-hill and Studmore, and that of Catlets alias Salmon.

The CHURCH, consisting of a nave, side aisles and transept, is dedicated to All Saints, and contains several notices of the families of Roberts and Courthope: there is also a neat and appropriate mural monument on the north side of the nave to one of the Harpers of Broad Oak; and an inscription for Elizabeth, wife of George Fane, Esq. of Tudely, date 1566. This was formerly but a chapel to the church of Yalding, with which it was given, 'in pure and perpetual alms,' to the Priory of Tunbridge, by Richard de Clare, Earl of Hertford, together with the manor of Barnes, still appendant. The present patron is George Courthope, Esq. in whose family it has continued several generations.

virtues; that these should have proved insufficient to disarm the superstitious wrath of his sovereign, cannot be matter of surprise, when it is remembered '*that ignorance is sooner cured than superstition*' and that Mary, though ignorant to a degree, was much more remarkable for her bigotry. "He was an open, generous, and honest man; a lover of truth and an enemy to falshood and superstition: he was gentle and moderate in his temper; and though heartily zealous in the cause of the reformation, yet a friend to the persons of those who most strenuously opposed it; he was a great patron of learning and the universities, a very learned man himself and author of several works."

It is no small addition to his fame to add, that he was the intimate and confidential friend of ERASMUS.



CAPEL appears to be a corruption of the word *Chapel*, for so no doubt it was originally called, from its being but a *Chapelry* to the neighbouring parish of Tudely; though as to its civil jurisdiction, it is considered a distinct parish of itself.

It is obscurely situated in a woody tract and but of small extent: its surface for the most part low and flat, abounding with ponds, and watered besides on the east and west by two small streams, which fall into the Medway opposite to Hadlow, and at the distance of about three quarters of a mile from each other. The church or rather chapel stands on a gentle rise nearly in the center of the parish, and about a mile south of the river: the surface soil of this small eminence is light and friable, on a substratum of sand stone, and the rest, or low grounds, a deep miry clay, the hedge-rows broad, and filled with spreading oaks. On the south, it is bounded by the parish of Pembury and the south-frith woods, and on the north by the river Medway which divides it from Hadlow.

Hasted observes, it is a place "but little known or frequented," and further that owing to the number of large spreading oaks, it is *exceedingly gloomy*. These remarks are not wide of the truth, tho' it must be confessed that some little improvement has taken place in its general character within these few years; and if the *gloominess* of its appearance is to be ascribed wholly to the number of trees within its boundary, it may fairly be presumed, judging from the increasing demand for oak timber, that it is not likely, long to labour under this disadvantage; but the fact is, that Capel, and indeed the Weald generally, is rather more objectionable on account of the smallness of its enclosures, which commonly are too confined, either on the score of beauty or profit.

"The manor and borough of Hadlow, in Tunbridge, claim

over that part of this parish which is within the *lovy*, here called the borough of Hadlow Capel."

"TATLINGBURY is a manor in this parish, which appears by the book of Knight's fees, taken in the reign of King Edward I. to have been part of the possessions of the prior and convent of Tunbridge; with which it was surrendered up in King Henry the eighth's reign and was given by the King in his 17th year, towards the endowment of Cardinal Wolsey's College, at Oxford, (Christ-church) but that great prelate being cast in a *præmunire*, four years afterwards; all the possessions of the college, which for want of time had not been firmly settled on it, became forfeited to the crown, from whence this manor was afterwards granted to the elder branch of the family of Fane, settled at RADSELL in the adjoining parish of Tudeley, who became Earls of Westmoreland, the last of whom, John Earl of Westmoreland, died in 1762, since which it has with Mereworth and the rest of his estates in this county, at length come by the limitations of his will, to the Right Hon. Thomas Lord le Despencer, the present owner."

The chapel (dedicated to ST. THOMAS A BECKET) is a small homely building, possessing little to attract attention. The body of it was wholly rebuilt of brick not many years since, but the chancel remains nearly in its original state and possesses evident claims to antiquity; at the west end is a tower, having a small spire on it. The church-yard contains one of the largest Yew trees in the county.

The rectory of Capel, with the chapel belonging to it, was antiently part of the possessions of the Knights hospitallers, by whom it was annexed to the jurisdiction of their preceptory of West Peckham.

"In the 22d of King Henry VII. the prior and brethren of that hospital, let to ferm to Sir Thomas Starkey, chaplain,

H

their chapel, commonly called Capel, together with all tythes, lands and appurtenances (woods and underwoods only excepted) to hold for his life, he being beneficed in it, paying the yearly rent of forty shillings to the prior, and duly serving either by himself, or by some able curate in his stead, the care of the chapel, and the parishioners of it; and further, that he should repair and maintain the mansion of it, and the barn and little stable belonging to it in a covering of straw, with other covenants therein mentioned."

"On the dissolution of the order of Knights hospitallers, in the 32d year of King Henry VIII. by an act specially passed for the purpose, their lands and revenues were given to the King, who that year demised this rectory and chapel of Capel, belonging to the preceptory or commandry of Peckham, otherwise called the *Chantry Magistrale*, together with the mansion, and all the messuages, tythes, lands, &c. belonging to it, to Sir John Baker, at the yearly rent of four pounds; after which, the fee of this rectory, with the advowson of the chapel, seems to have been granted to Sir Ralph Fane, and he in the 37th year of the same reign, alienated it to Thomas Stone, of Hadlow, Yeoman."

It some-time afterwards, came into the possession of the owners of Tatlingbury, with which manor, it has descended to the Right Hon. Thomas Lord le Despencer.

CHART MAGNA which lies principally on the southern range of the hills, usually called the Quarry hills, is *partly* within the WEALD; the line of demarcation, passing the church in a direction nearly east and west. In the time of the Saxons it was called *Selebertes*, or *Sybertes Chert*, and in Domesday *Certh*. It is north-eastward of Bethersden, and on the turnpike road from that place to Ashford.

"The country in the immediate vicinity of Chart, is much more open and cheerful than in the neighbourhood of Bethersden, or in most of those parts which lie below the hill more to

the westward; from the elevated position of the village, the views from it on either side are comparatively extensive, and though the forescape is not rich in wood, or embellished with any striking objects of art, the scenery is not void of interest or picturesque beauty. According to tradition this place was once of much greater extent and consequence; and from its decay the now flourishing town of Ashford, is said, to owe its origin;* though were it not for the tradition, which for the honor of CHART has been thus carefully preserved, we should naturally be led to form a very contrary conclusion. While Ashford has become rich and populous, flourishing in trade and rendered gay and lively by the resort of military, the consequence of its barracks; the other, once equally, or more important, we now see reduced to an inconsiderable village, without a single vestige of antiquity and scarce any proof of its former consequences but what rests on the vague and uncertain basis of oral tradition.

Unlike the neighbouring parishes in the Weald, GREAT CHART, possesses but little timber or underwood: the soil on the hill is a clayey loam on a substratum of rag stone and in this district (southward) it is more stiff and tenacious; the parish is watered on the north by a branch of the Stour, and on the south by a small rivulet which rising near Goldwell, shapes its course westward, forming a tributary stream to the river Beult, and *ultimately* to the Medway.†

III 3

* "The inhabitants have a tradition here, that Great Chart was once a far more considerable place than at present, having had a great street of houses on the east side, in the road which goes up by *Singleton* to the top of the hill, where there have been many houses in the memory of man. The ruins of the market-house were to be seen in the field where the fair is now kept, over against the church, which probably was but a kind of chapel, when this town was burnt down by the Danes, and then ASHFORD began to rise and grow out of the ruins of it." Hasted vol. 7. p. 497.

† This parish is watered by the separate heads of the river MEDWAY and

The following instances of longevity are recorded as proofs of the healthiness of this place; Captain Nicholas Toke, who died at the age of 93, with his four predecessors, successive owners of Godington, are said collectively to have numbered 430 years. And the joint ages of four persons of the name of Engeham who succeeded each other in the estate of Singleton, amounted to 329 years; the two first 79 years each, the third 85, and the fourth 86 years.

A violent shock of an earthquake was felt here in the night of the 1st of May, 1580,* which much alarmed the inhabitants.

The manor of Great Chart as early as the reign of King Cenulf (799) was annexed to the possessions of Christ church, Canterbury, being granted by that Prince, towards the cloathing of the monks on that establishment (*ad vestimentum monichorum.*) In the 10th of Edward II. a grant of *free warren* was obtained; and in the 25th of Henry VI. the privilege of holding a weekly market, and a fair annually on Lady-day, (now held on the 5th of April.) On the dissolution of the priory of Christ church in the reign of Henry VIII. this MANOR was by that monarch settled on the dean and chapter of Canterbury, who still retain in their own hands the manorial

the Stour, &c." Hasted—Mr. Hasted is generally inaccurate in his descriptions of the streams which water the Weald, and more particularly so on this occasion.—He may have been partly led into this error by Dr. Harris, who says, "near a place in this parish called *Goldwell*, rises one of the heads of the *Medway*." But the *spring* which rises near Goldwell might with nearly equal propriety be called a head of the THAMES, or even the SEA: and as for a head of the Stour, no such thing can now be found in this parish.

* This date is agreeable to Mr. Hasted and Dr. Harris, yet it is probably erroneous as no mention of it has been found elsewhere: but, on the 6th of April in the same year, an *earthquake* is on record, which was felt at several places in Kent, as at Sandwich, Dover, &c. and at the same time most likely at Great Chart.

rights, but the demesne lands are leased to the company of Haberdashers.

CHELMINGTON and SHINGLETON are two estates here, which formerly had owners of the same name; of whom John Chelmington and Henry de Singleton were among the persons of note, whose effigies in armour were formerly exhibited in the window of the north chancel of this church. At the manor court of Chelmington (which has been now long disused) a borsholder for that borough was annually chosen, but this appointment is now made at the court of CHART MANOR. The former is the property of Hooker Bartelot, Esq. and the latter held in trust by the company of Haberdashers for the support of the hospital at Hoxton, called Aske's hospital: to which also the reputed manor of BUCKSFORD in this parish belongs.

The MANOR OF GOLDWELL which soon after the conquest was among the possessions of the bishop of Baieux (as appears by the record of Domesday) and subsequently of a family who assumed the name of Goldwell, lies on the quarry hills about a mile westward of Chart church. In the family of Goldwell, this estate remained upwards of four centuries: Sir John Goldwell who possessed it in the reign of King John, is mentioned as a commander of considerable note; James Goldwell was Bishop of Norwich and principal secretary to Edward IV. and Thomas Goldwell was made Bishop of St. Asaph in 1555. In the reign of James I. it was alienated by John Goldwell the last of the family at this place.

The Earl of Thanet is the present owner of this estate, which is divided into two farms called the great and little Goldwell.

In the church (dedicated to the VIRGIN MARY) are still numerous brasses, though several have been purloined from their situations by the hand of wantonness; among the latter are those which formerly ornamented the old altar tomb be-

tween the chancel and the north chapel, in memory of William de Goldwell and Alice his wife, the parents of the Bishop of Norwich, above mentioned, by whom it seems this edifice was repaired or partly rebuilt; and whose portrait, says Weever, was in the east window, kneeling, and in every quarry a golden well, and these words, *Jacobo Goldwelle Episcopo Norwiche . . . qui . . . opus fundavit Ann. Christi, M. CCCC. LXXVII.* He died in 1499. The chantry founded in the south chancel at the altar of the Holy Trinity, and dissolved in the 1st of Edward VI. is ascribed to the Bishop of Norwich, but in Coke's entries it is said to have been founded by Nicholas Goldwell, Clerk. On the pavement in the north chapel, the principal burial place of the Toke's of Godington,* are several curious brasses; at the end of the

* One of the principal estates in this parish, is GODINGTON, which with *Worting Farm* belongs to the family of Toke. Godington lies on the north side of the Quarry hills, bordering on the parish of Ashford, and consequently beyond the boundary of the Weald. The family of Toke in whose possession this estate has remained since the time of Henry VII. and who originally became entitled to it, by intermarriage with the family of Goldwell, are supposed to be descended from Le Sire de Touque, a follower of the Conqueror; but the first on record in the pedigrees of the family is Robert de Toke who was present with Henry III. at the battle of Northampton in 1264. John who succeeded his father here in the time of Henry VII. was employed by that prince to deliver a message to the French King, and as a reward for his expedition and diligence, was honored with an additional Coat of Arms, which is still borne by the family. From 1663 to 1680, Godington was in the possession of Captain Nicholas Toke, who has been before noticed for his great age, but who is more remarkable for having buried five wives and who at the great age of 93 walked from Chart to London for the purpose of paying his addresses to the sixth!! A whole length portrait of him and his fifth wife, Diana, daughter of the Earl of Winchelsea, are in the hall here, and said to be the production of Cornelius Jansen. Two of his successors have been sheriffs of the county viz. Nicholas, his nephew and heir, who kept his shrievalty here in 1623, and John Toke who served that office in 1710, at present residing at Canterbury, having left the possession of this seat to his eldest son Nicholas Roundell

south aisle are those in memory of Thomas Twiden and Janet his wife; and in the nave, a slab inlaid with figures in brass for William Sharpe '*et ejus quinque consortes.*' Captain Nicholas Toke lies buried in the chancel with *his* five wives!! The windows of this church were formerly much enriched with stained glass, but little now remains, and that so mutilated and transposed, as to convey but little idea of what was originally designed. In the lower north window were originally, according to Weever, sixteen figures of men kneeling, ten of which remained in Philipott's time, in the midst of them were two priests; the former are supposed to have been the portraitures of the chief proprietors of lands in the parish and principal

Toke, Esq. While John Toke, Esq. resided at Godington he modernized the north front and made several other considerable alterations to the house, but the eastern front was suffered to retain its original character. The windows to the staircase, (which is curiously carved), contain much stained glass, displaying the arms, quarterings and alliances of the family, collected from different parts of the building, and in the drawing room upstairs, which is wainscoted with oak, is exhibited 'the exercise and manœuvres of the antient militia' disposed in compartments round the upper part of the room.—Hasted says, "there was a vineyard at Godington in Captain Nicholas Toke's time, from which was made wine of an extraordinary fine sort and flavour." And refers to the *Archæologia* vol. I. p. 326, and vol. III. p. 58, for a discourse on the introduction and progress of the vine in Britain.

In the month of June 1811, the following singular memorial was placed on the south side of the road opposite to the church; "In memory of Ann West, widow of this parish, died March 10th, 1800, aged 59 years.

The reverend Rector being a hard,
Austerly, rigid man,
Within the walls of his church-yard
He will not let me stand;
Unless a fee be paid to him,
Two shillings and two pounds;
So to the memory of a friend,
I, here am now sit down.

contributors towards the erection of the church. The parsonage house, which is rather pleasantly situated on the south side of the hill, and about a quarter of a mile westward of the church, has attached to it about twelve acres of glebe land. In this parish, says Dr. Harris, "the Archbishop of Canterbury had anciently a mansion house."

CHART SUTTON alias CHART BY SUTTON, was among the numerous possessions of the Bishop of Baieux; equally remarkable for his wealth, his pride, and unbounded ambition. After his disgrace and the general confiscation of his property, Baldwin de Betun, Earl of Albermarle, lord of the manor of Sutton Valence, became possessed of this manor, which since that time has been annexed to the former, and together have descended in a like succession of ownership. The mansion house called Chart Place, is situate near the church and was erected about the year 1708, by Sir Christopher Desbouverie on a spot purchased for that purpose. The house has lately undergone considerable repair and a veranda has been added as a protection from the sun and rain, to which from its elevated situation and aspect it is particularly exposed. At the time of the survey of domesday, there appears to have been here, according to that record "three arpendes of vineyard" a proof, among many that the vine was formerly cultivated in this county, in the open ground;* and probably with considerable

* "The mention made in the record of domesday of the three arpendes of vineyard in this parish, ought not to be passed by unnoticed here, this being one of several instances of there having been vineyards in this county in very early times. I mean plantations of the grape vine; for I can by no means acquiesce in the conjecture, that *vineæ* universally meant plantations of apples and pears, at least so far as relates to this county, where the latter were not introduced at the time, nor for some time after the taking of the survey of domesday. This opinion is further confirmed by the instance of Hamo, Bishop of Rochester, who, when Edward II. in his 19th year, was at Bockingfold, in this county, sent that prince a gift both of wine and grapes, from his vineyard at Halling, near Rochester, the episcopal palace where he then re-

surface in this place, the soil and aspect of the land on the hill, southward of the church, being to all appearance admirably suited to its culture.

This place in the record above mentioned is called *Certh*, it lies chiefly on the range of hills which form the northern boundary of the Weald, adjoining to the parishes of Sutton Valence; Boughton Monchelsea, Langley, &c. the village being distant from Maidstone about four miles.

The following are the principal estates in this parish—**NORTON PLACE** belonging to Lord Barham; **WALTERS FOLLY** to Robert Lord Ongley; **ALMERY GREEN** to Christopher Harvey, Esq. and **LESTED LODGE** to Mrs. A. M. Disney, relict of the late Rev. W. Disney, D. D. Rector of Pluckley, with reversion to James Smyth, Esq. (descended from Robert, second son of the Rev. John Smyth and Anne Filmer his wife) who now resides here; he married Charlotte daughter of Clement Tay-

I

sided. These vineyards being also measured by the *arpent*, the same measure that they usually were in France, shews that when the vine was brought from thence and cultivated here, the same kind of measure was continued to the plantations of them, a measure different from that of any other kind of land. Sir Robert Atkins, in his history of Gloucestershire, has indeed given two instances from records in the reigns of King John and King Edward II. to prove the contrary, which might suit exceeding well with the language of his countrymen, and the bleak county of Gloucester, where the grape-vine had never been seen, and the only beverage was that of the apple and pear, which they had dignified with the appellation of wine. In my memory there have been two exceeding fine vineyards in this county, one at Tunbridge Castle, and the other at Hall-place, in Barming, near Maidstone, from which, quantities of exceeding good and well flavored wine have been produced. This parish of Chart among others in the same situation, on the side of the quarry hills, is peculiarly adapted to the planting of vines, as well from the warm and nutritive quality of the soil, as its genial aspect, being entirely sheltered from the north and east, and facing the south on the declivity of the hill." Hasted's History, vol. 5. p. 353, 4.

lor, Esq. by whom he has four sons and six daughters.* The greater part of the old manor-house of LESTED has been taken down; the hall, now used as a kitchen and about six rooms are all that remain. The present front was erected about a century since. There are several old family portraits, two of which, (Dean Bargrave and his wife), are said to be the productions of Cornelius Jansen.

The church dedicated to St. Michael was, not many years since, rebuilt after designs of Mr. Henry Holland, Architect, having been destroyed by lightning, in the morning of the 23d of April, 1779; a few years before, it was struck by lightning, but at that time, sustained no material injury. The advowson of the vicarage is reserved by the dean and chapter of Rochester; the parsonage is at present leased to William Coleman, Esq. of Angley-house in Cranbrook.

On the south side of the cemetery, is the following inscription to the memory of Ann, wife of Thomas Damant.

Enough, cold stone, suffice, her long loved name
Words are too weak to pay her virtue's claim;
Temples, and tombs, and tongues, shall waste away,
And power's vain pomp, in mouldering dust decay;
But ere mankind a wife more perfect see
Eternity, O Time! shall bury thee.

At the east end of the yard, is a headstone to the memories of Richard Bigg, the elder and younger, and under the age and time of the decease of the latter, this laconic notice,

'Saved by grace alone'

CHIDINGSTONE adjoins to Penshurst on the west, and in the *Textus Roffensis* is called CIDINGSTONE.

* For the pedigrees of this family, see Her. Vistn. co. Kent. anno 1619. and 1663.

This parish which lies wholly within the Weald, is about six miles in length, and on the average two in breadth, it is bounded on the south, by that branch of the Medway, which has its rise at Gravely hill, in Sussex, and directing its course eastward divides the two counties. It is also watered by the river Eden, which crossing the center of it, unites with the former at Penshurst: northward of the river Eden the country is much covered with wood, and in these parts are situated Sharp's Place, Boar Place, and nearer the foot of the hill, Boars-Hill, usually called Bowsell-Gate, which latter names among others of the same import in the neighbourhood, Hasted concludes, originated in the number of wild boars, which antiently infested this part of the country.

Chidingstone though it possesses many essentials of scenic beauty, as a varied and diversified surface, wood, water, and some few interesting objects of art; is still wanting in effect; its influence on a stranger is not pleasing, and this is aggravated by the general badness of the roads. As an improvement, in this latter respect, a private road has lately been made by Mr. Streatfield, from his house to near the village of Penshurst, but this though of great importance to the proprietor of High-street-house, and to those who may have the privilege of making use of it as a carriage way, or even bridle road; is but of little consequence to the public who have merely the right of footway. A good turnpike road from Penshurst through Chidingstone, and Hever to Eden-bridge, is much wanted, but the greatest possible improvement to the neighbourhood, would be the carrying fully into effect, the act made in the 13th of George II. for rendering navigable the river Medway as far as Forest-row in Sussex. The powers already vested in the proprietors of the Medway navigation are fully sufficient for the purpose, without any farther appeal to parliament, and when we consider the facilities which

it offers, the comparatively trifling expence of carrying it into execution, and the great importance of such a measure to this part of the country, it must be matter of surprise that it should so long have remained unaccomplished. The tenacity of the soil, which for the most part is a strong deep clay, renders the land generally very moist, but this is by no means peculiar to Chiddingstone, as it is the common condition of the lower grounds throughout this district; the soil in such situations being almost invariably the same. The village of Chiddingstone is placed on an eminence about a mile southward of the river Eden, and from its elevated situation is usually called High-street, and the seat of the elder branch of the Streatfield family which stands near it, *High-street-house*.

In the view of this seat and grounds in Harris's History of Kent, the bad taste of those days is rendered strikingly manifest, where

"Grove nods at grove, each alley has a brother,
And half the platform just reflects the other."

This fashion, the spurious offspring of Batavian parents, but nurtured and matured by the folly of our own countrymen, was so prevalent in the time of William III. and indeed long after, that scarce a place of any consequence whatever in the kingdom but had in some measure suffered under its destructive influence. Thanks to our better stars, this mania has long since subsided, and *common sense* again assumed its empire; no longer,

"The suffering eye, inverted nature sees,"

but even where deprived of the assistance of art, it has to boast the negative advantage at least, of being exempt from the torturing proneness of *Dutch taste*. Pope very justly observes,

Something there is, more needful than exence,
 And something previous e'en to taste——'tis *Scence*:
 Good sense, which only is the gift of heaven,
 And tho' no science, fairly worth the seven.

To return: The old house is now nearly removed, and on the site, a large castellated stone building has been erected by the present proprietor, which will not suffer by a comparison with any other domestic building within the Weald. The style of architecture has been judiciously chosen, the situation is naturally good; and if some little improvements are made in the grounds which it is trusted will be the case, this seat is likely to become an object of general admiration.

Besides the village of Chidingstone, this parish contains within its boundary several small hamlets, as Wickhurst-green, Bow-beach, Hill-heath, Careys-cross, Ranesley-heath and others. The parish was formerly divided into *two manors*, the manor of *Chidingstone Cobham*, and the manor of *Chidingston Burghersh*.

CHIDINGSTONE COBHAM was formerly a manor of the Lords Cobham, from whom it passed to the *Boroughs*, or Burghs of Gainsborough in Lincolnshire, of whom Thomas Lord Burgh, was the last possessor; who, about the 38th of Queen Elizabeth, was from the circumstance of having expended large sums in the Queen's service, necessitated to alienate this manor, as also that of Tyhurst.

The other, CHIDINGSTONE BURGHERSH, so called from its former owners, after passing through a variety of possessors came to the *Willoughbys*, (a younger branch of the Lord Willoughby of Parham) the original of whom in this kingdom was Sir John de Willoughby, a Norman Knight, on whom the conqueror bestowed the lordship of Willoughby in Lincolnshire.

BORE-PLACE, before mentioned, with the appendant manor of Milbroke, was as early as the reign of Henry III. the estate

of a family who assumed the same surname, and adopted a Boar for its arms: In this family it continued until the reign of Henry VI. when (by purchase) it became the property of John Alphew, who rebuilt the house.

The whole of these estates are now the property of H. Streatfield, Esq. of High-street house, in whose family they have been for several generations.

The church (dedicated to ST. MARY) is a respectable building, but possessing little to entitle it to *particular* attention; it has three aisles and three chancels, with a tower-steeple at the west end which challenge *some* notice; HARRIS, speaking of it says "it is the cleanest piece of work I have seen any where in Kent" but of the exact meaning of this expression it is not easy to conjecture. In the 15th year of King Edward I. this church was valued at thirty marks and according to the *commission of enquiry*, taken in 1650 it was returned that in Chidingstone there was a parsonage, with a house and five acres of land.

The chapel on the north side called Bore-place-chapel, was built by Sir Robert Read, in 1516, and dedicated to St. CATHERINE; in it he founded a chantry, by deed dated 1517.

The church contains numerous memorials, principally of the Streatfield family, the most antient of which is that to the memory of Richard Streatfield of Cransted, date 1584. The inscription in black letter, is on a brass plate in the middle aisle.

COWDEN. Southward of Hever lies COWDEN, which in the Textus Roffensis, is written CUDENA.

This small parish is situated at the south west corner of the county, adjoins to Sussex on the south, and on the west to the county of Surry; from the former it is separated by a stream of the Medway, which rises at Gravely-hill in that county, whence directing its course eastward, it forms the southern boundary of this parish, and unites with the principal stream

at Penshurst. From the badness of the roads in this neighbourhood, Cowden is a place but little known, it has no turnpike road through it, nor indeed is it likely to have while the materials necessary to form a good road are so difficult of attainment. To obviate this inconvenience, it is only necessary to carry fully into effect the act made in the 13th of George II. and of which notice has already been taken (see Chidingstone) but to which measure there appears a degree of objection, which it is difficult satisfactorily to account for. The soil is here a deep clay, and from its retentive property, the lands are for the greater part of the year, extremely wet and miry. The village (on the eastern side of which is the church) stands on elevated ground, a little removed from the stream,* the course of which has been above described.

A fair is held here on the second of August for Cattle and Pedlary ware.

According to Kilburne, a small quantity of land, and two houses in this parish were in his time reputed to lie within the hundred of Axtane, but more probably as Hasted observes, in that of Ruxley, as being perhaps a small part of the borough of Linkhill, parcel of that hundred.

The MANOR OF COWDEN, was antiently part of the possessions of Agnes de Montacute, who made a gift of all her demesne in Cuden, and in Hertfield in Sussex, together with other property to the convent of Michelham, in Sussex, being a priory of Black Canons, founded by Gilbert de Aquila, early in the reign of Henry III. and dedicated to the Holy Trinity,† whose possessions in this place were augmented by the liberality of Sir Walter de Letton, and Gunnora his wife,

* This stream it appears was anciently called Kent Water.

† Tan. Mon. p. 562. but according to Harris, this manor, &c. on the suppression of the lesser religious establishments, formed part of the possessions of the college of Lingfield in Surry.

who gave them all his lands called Greggeslond, in Cuden. On the dissolution of this priory about the 29th of Henry VIII. its possessions were given up to the King, and in the same year he granted to Thomas Lord Cromwell this manor of *Cawdrams*, who in the 33d year of the same reign, exchanged his possession here for other lands with the Earl of Arundel.† This estate was divided in the reign of King Charles I. between two brothers of the name of Wickenden. One moiety is now in the possession of H. Streatfield, Esq. of Chidingstone, and the other is become the property of James Harbroc, Esq. This manor is now called the *manor of Lewisham*, but on what account, it is not easy to conjecture.

A court baron was anciently held for this manor; but has been long discontinued.

COWDEN LEIGHTON is another manor here; whose ancient owners were surnamed Leighton, these were succeeded by the Cobhams of Sterborough, as the latter were by the family of Borough or Burgh, of whom, the last was Sir Thomas Borough, Lord Burgh, whose necessities induced him to alienate it to Henry Streatfield, Esq. in which family it is at present.

THE MOAT called otherwise COSINS from its former possessors, is a manor and ancient seat in the parish of Cowden, now in the possession of the Rev. Francis Woodgate, Rector of Mountfield, in Sussex.

WAYSTROBE alias *Westwood*, and now commonly called

† By the advice of Cromwell the king obtruded many of the estates, late belonging to the monasteries, on the nobles and others, in exchange for their own lands, in order to bind them more firmly against the re-establishment of such houses, and of the papal power. (Hasted vol. 3. p. 204.)

Henry took an effectual method of interesting the nobility and gentry in the success of his measures; he either made a gift of the revenues of convents to his favorites and courtiers, or sold them at low prices, or exchanged them for other lands on very disadvantageous terms. Hume's England vol. 4. p. 133.

THE WOOD is an estate here, situated about half a mile north-westward of the church, and was formerly accounted a manor. It had owners antiently of the name of Waystrade with whom it continued until the beginning of the reign of King Henry VI. when it was alienated to May; from whom it passed by sale to the Stills, who possessed it for some generations:

There is another small manor in this parish which from its name, St. John's, alias the manor of St. John of Jerusalem; most probably belonged to the Knights of that order at some remote period.

The college of Lingfield in Surry, held an estate in this parish, called *Gold Alleyne*, which King Henry VIII. in his 36th year granted to Thomas Cawarden, to hold *in capite* by Knight's service.

The church (dedicated to ST. MARY MAGDALEN) possesses but few claims to notice, its exterior is mean, and within it contains nothing to gratify the *curious*. In the 15th of Edward I. this rectory was valued at fifteen marks. And according to the *commission of enquiry*, taken by order of the state in 1650, it was returned, that in Cowden there was a parsonage house and three acres of glebe land, which with the tithes thereto belonging, were worth 83l. per annum, and then in the patronage of the Earl of Leicester.

The present patron and incumbent is the Rev. Thomas Harvey, L. L. B.

CRANBROOK,

Usually esteemed the principal town in the Weald of Kent; is chiefly remarkable as having been once the center of the clothing trade, which was here carried on to a considerable extent for several centuries; and not wholly removed from hence, until within these 40 years. The cloths made at this place were much in repute, as appears by the following observation

K

of Dr. Harris,* who speaking of this manufacture, says, "and for this *Cranbrooke* hath been a long while famous, especially for strong durable broad cloths of very good mixtures and colours." This trade was originally introduced here through the policy of Edward III.† who having witnessed while in Flanders the advantages accruing to the Netherlands from their extensive woollen manufactures, the raw materials for which were chiefly furnished from England, engaged a body of Flemings

* History of Kent, p. 85.

† "Edward had from the beginning of his reign, made several good laws for the regulation of trade, and for preserving to the nation the benefit of its wool; whilst he resided in Flanders, he beheld, with attention, the vast advantages accruing to the Netherlands from their extensive woollen manufactures; the raw materials of which they obtained chiefly from England. During his residence in his own kingdom, therefore, he promoted, with spirit, the establishment of manufactures, and the commercial views of his people. But the clouds that darkened the political horizon, at that time, prevented him from discerning the errors of his predecessors. Strongly impelled to acquire possessions on the continent, in gratifying his ambition he lost sight of his interest, and involved the nation he governed in real misfortunes, whilst he excited it to pursue a phantom of dominion. It was not till the latter part of his reign, that the illusion of foreign conquest was exposed, by the loss of every possession which he had acquired on the continent, Calais only excepted: he then accomplished the establishment of the woollen manufacture throughout England, which has, from that time, been gradually advancing to its present state of perfection." *Hervey's naval History of Great Britain*. vol. I. p. 121. But though the introduction of this manufacture, appeared even then, a matter of much importance, yet such was the short-sighted policy of our legislature and so imperfect our notions of trade and commerce, that the exportation of WOOLLEN GOODS was prohibited by the Parliament; while the privileges granted to the Flemings and others in a former reign (Edward I.) particularly the liberty of buying and transporting of Wool was still un-repealed and the practice on the contrary much encouraged. A similar instance of impolicy, is offered in the law, made against the exportation of manufactured iron. Perhaps the only salutary provision made with respect to the woollen trade by Edward III. was that, of prohibiting the use of any cloth, but of English fabric within his own dominions.

by the promise of great rewards and immunities, to settle here and teach the English the art of manufacturing broad cloths ; since become of so much national importance. "The occupation of it," says Hasted, "was formerly of considerable consequence and estimation, and was exercised by persons who possessed most of the landed property in the Weald, insomuch that almost all the antient families of these parts, now of large estates, and genteel rank in life, and some of them enobled by titles, are sprung from, and owe their fortunes to ancestors who have used this great staple manufacture, now almost unknown here."*

From hence, the woollen trade has been removed into the northern and western parts of the kingdom, and the only manufactures now carried on here, are two of coarse cloths and hop-bagging, and a manufactory on a contracted scale of worsted. The town of CRANBROOK, or as it was originally spelt *Cranebrooke*, probably derived from a small rivulet called *the Crane*, flowing through the lower part of it, is centrically situated within the Weald, and from this peculiarity of situation is become also the center of its trade ; which, considering its inland situation is by no means inconsiderable. It consists principally of two streets of considerable length, meeting at right angles, with a neat octagonal market-house at their junction, lately erected at the sole expence of William Coleman, Esq. to whose considerate liberality this place is already much indebted. Beside a number of good shops in almost every branch of trade, it contains several respectable private houses, and four places

K 2

* "Among others, the Bathursts, Ongleys, Courthopes, Maplesdens, Gibbons's, Westons, Plummers, Austens, Dunks, and Stringers. They were usually called from their dress, *the grey coats of Kent*, and were a body so numerous and united, that at county elections, whoever had their votes and interest was almost certain of *being elected*."—Hasted vol. 7. p. 98. Edit. 1798.

of worship for dissenters of different denominations, namely Presbyterians,* Unitarians, Calvinistic Baptists and a sect denominated Huntingtonians.† The society of friends, formerly held an annual meeting at Cranbrook, but of this respectable body there is only one residing here at present: they have a burial ground about half a mile from the town. The road and footways through the town are described as so bad prior to the year 1664, that in that year 'through mere necessity' a part of it, from the market-place eastward was paved; the deepness

* The PRESBYTERIANS were formerly under the care of ROBERT NOYSE, author of a poem entitled "DISSENS" an effort, of considerable merit. He died and was buried here in November, 1798.

† So called from their leader WILLIAM HUNTINGTON, alias HUNT, S. S. (*Staver Saver*), pastor of a congregation calling themselves "THE FREE MEN CITIZENS OF ZION" at Providence chapel, London. He was a native of CRANBROOK, and died at Tunbridge Wells, July 1st, 1813; his remains were interred (by his own desire) in the burial ground of JEREH CHAPEL, at Lewes, in Sussex, and the following inscription (written by himself a few days before his decease) is engraved on his tomb:

Here lies
THE COAL-HEAVER;
Who departed this Life
July 1st, 1813; in the 69th year of his age,
Beloved of his God, but abhorred
of Men.
The omniscient Judge, at the grand Assize,
shall ratify and confirm this
to the confusion of many
thousands;
For England and its Metropolis shall know
that there hath been
A PROPHET among them,
W. H. S. S.

He married, a few years since, Lady Sandeman, widow of Sir James Sanderson, late Lord Mayor of London. — His works have been lately republished in TEN volumes 8vo.

and mire of the soil before, being not only a great hindrance to the standing of the market people, but to the passing of all travellers in general: these are now kept in very good order, and by a voluntary subscription of the inhabitants, the town for some years past has been well lighted; indeed no place in the Weald has undergone a greater revolution within the last thirty years than Cranbrook, and it still seems in a progressive state of improvement. The market, now chiefly confined to the sale of fish, of which great quantities are brought from the neighbouring sea ports, particularly from Hastings, and sold at a very reasonable rate, was obtained by Archbishop Peckham in the 18th year of Edward I. who most probably obtained the grant of the two chartered fairs, held on the thirtieth of May and the twenty-ninth of September, at both of which considerable business is done: the latter especially is always well attended by persons in the hop trade. There was also formerly an annual wake or fair held in the grounds of Sissinghurst, but which has very properly been suppressed, as serving merely to encourage idleness and dissipation. The near approaches to the town of Cranbrook are interesting, particularly that to the westward, and the neighbouring country is remarkably pleasant and healthy: in the latter particular especially, it stands almost unrivalled; indeed, according to the comparative statement of Dr. Derham* as drawn from the researches of Messrs. Grant and King, its healthiness seems placed above all competition. In the parish are several chalybeate springs similar to those of Tunbridge Wells, but which on analysis are found to be somewhat heavier and to possess less spirit; yet they may probably be used with advantage in all cases, in which the use of the latter would be beneficial.† The

* The Doctor observes, that from the year 1590 to 1649, the proportion of marriages to births was as 1 to 3, 9. And that of births to burials as 1, 6 to 1.

† For the virtues of these waters, see under the article Tunbridge Wells.

grammar school, usually called **QUEEN ELIZABETH'S FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL** was founded by Simon Lynch, Gent. of this parish in the year 1574, and by the charter of incorporation, granted by that Queen, is placed under the management of thirteen trustees, of which the vicar is always to be one, and the rest, freeholders of this parish. The present master is the Rev. D. W. Davies, A. M. late vicar of Cranbrook, who proposes taking a limited number of boarders; for the accommodation of whom, the school-house is eminently calculated. The funds of this establishment which at first were trifling, are now, of the annual value of nearly 300*l.* though the present salary of the master does not exceed 100*l.* The endowment comprises, beside the school-house, a large respectable building at the east entrance of the town, a house and two fields in the parish of Cranbrook, a small estate in Benenden, and a farm called the school-house farm in the parish of Horsmonden. A *writing school* was also founded here in 1573, by Mr. Alexander Dence, who endowed it with a house for the master, a school room attached, and the interest of 160*l.* put out by the churchwardens. In this parish, are the hamlets of *Milkhouse, Wisley and Hartley*: the former lies on the road to Biddenden at the distance of rather more than a mile from the town, and contains the remains of the chapel founded by John Lawless at the latter end of the reign of Henry VI. dedicated to the HOLY TRINITY. It was intended as well for the accommodation of the inhabitants of the eastern part of the parish, who in the winter seasons, on account of the badness of the roads, were troubled to reach the church, 'as for the receiving the alms, and offering up prayers for the welfare of travellers passing that way.' This chapel was suppressed in the 37th year of Henry VIII. and only a part of the east end now remains. A little removed is a SEAT which for many generations belonged to the family of Plummer, the last of which family here, dying without issue, devised it to the late Charles Naun,



BONNINGTON CHURCH.



**REMAINS OF TRINITY CHAPEL,
Milkhouse Street.**

Published Decr. 1813, by S. Reader, Bookseller, Cranbrook.

Digitized by Google

Esq. whose widow still resides in it. At the distance of about a quarter of a mile from hence, in a secluded and unpleasant situation is *Sissinghurst*, the once proud residence of the BAKERS, now converted into a *Poor-house*! The buildings were originally extensive and standing entire within the last 70 years, but little now remains, except the great western entrance, flanked by octagonal brick towers and a small part of the out-offices which has been fitted up for the reception of the poor, the estate being held of Sir Horatio Mann, Bart. for the use of the parish: during the seven years war, *Sissinghurst* was hired by government for the confinement of French prisoners, whence it acquired the name of *Sissinghurst castle*. This mansion was built by Sir John Baker in the reign of Edward VI. who inclosed an extensive *park* round it. Agreeable to the humour of that period the building was extensive, but inelegant; though Phillipott describes it as a "magnificent pile"* and Hasted says, that the ruins of it, "still remind us of its former splendor." Sir John Baker was grandson of Thomas Baker, Esq. who by purchase, became part owner of the manor of *Sissinghurst* with the appendant ones of *Copton* and *Stone*, in the reign of Henry VII. and grandfather of Sir Richard Baker, the English chronicler.† Sir Richard Baker, who entertained Queen Elizabeth at this place in July 1573 ‡

* A print of this *magnificent pile* is given in Hasted's folio edition of the *History of Kent*.

† He married a daughter of Sir George Manwaring, Knight, of Ightfield in Shropshire; and having become surety for some one of that family, was thereby reduced to poverty, and thrown into the fleet prison, where he died February 18th, 1644—5. His remains were interred in St. Bride's church, Fleet street.

‡ Mr. Evans, in his *Juvenile Tourist*, says, though on what authority we know not, that when Queen Elizabeth, came down to visit the cloth manufactory, having laid the first stone of the school-house, she walked

was the eldest son of Sir John Baker above mentioned and uncle of the chronicler: of this family also was the learned John Selden whom Grotius styles "the glory of the English nation." A chapel was founded here by John de Saxeuhurst, probably in the reign of Edward III. which was re-edified by Sir John Baker, Bart. in the time of Charles I: and by a deed delivered in 1627 to John Bancroft, bishop of Oxford, was devoted to the service of God, and dedicated, as it was before, to **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**; upon which it was consecrated by the Bishop, with the usual ceremonies of benedictions.

GLASSENbury, a manor of considerable note in these parts, has been in the possession of the family of Roberts (anciently Rookehurst) for a period of more than four hundred and thirty years; prior to which we find them settled at Winchet Hill in the adjoining parish of Goudhurst, where the first of the family, in this country, William Rookehurst of the shire of Annandale in Scotland, had fixed his residence as early as the commencement of the reign of Henry I. (anno 1103). The present mansion of Glassenbury, was built by Walter Roberts, Esq. (the first who wrote himself by that name only) about the year 1473; who obtained the liberty of *free warren*, and a grant to *impart* six hundred acres of land, and one thousand acres of wood in Cranbrooke, Goudhurst and Ticehurst, in Kent and Sussex; but this park like that of Sissinghurst has long since been thrown open. This seat which is still partly moated, lies in a low and retired spot about two miles and a half from the town of Cranbrook; and though much of its original character is gone, it is still interesting. It is now the residence of the Rev. John Cramer Roberts, who married Martha, daughter of Sir Thomas Roberts, Bart.

down to Cows-Hall (Cows-horn) more than a mile from the town, the way thither being covered with *broad-cloth*.

Banker, at Cork, in Ireland. At the distance of half a mile eastward from the town is **SWIFTS PLACE**, the seat of John Austen, Esq. occupying a gentle rise and forming a principal and interesting feature in the views from the westward: the grounds have nothing in them remarkable, but are kept in good order, this being one of the best cultivated estates in the neighbourhood. A short remove from the latter, is **ANGLEY HOUSE**, late the property and residence of Sir Walter James James, Bart,* who was at considerable expence in improving this place: its present owner is William Coleman, Esq. The situation of the house is retired but not inconveniently so; the estate, considering its size, is one of the compleatest, and embraces as great a diversity of scenery as any in the county, and the house is particularly convenient.

The church, (dedicated to **ST. DUNSTAN**) is a substantial uniform building, and the most spacious within the Weald. It comprises a nave, side aisles and chancel, with a square embattled tower at the west end containing a ring of eight bells† and a set of musical chimes, which play every third hour. On the front of the tower are shields with the arms of Whisford, Barham of Bettenham, &c. ancient owners of lands in this parish. The range of slender piers between the nave and side aisles and the width of the arches, give to the interior of the building a light and airy appearance, which is much improved by the windows in the *louvre* above the nave, amounting to six on either side. From the corbel heads imme-

L

* The benevolence of this worthy Baronet and his family, to the industrious poor of Cranbrook, is still held in grateful remembrance.

† The custom of ringing a *course* bell, a law introduced by the policy of the Norman invader, and which Polydore Virgil (lib. 9) justly describes as a mark of the servitude of the English, still prevails at this place, one half of the year: for whose amusement or benefit we know not.

diately above the impost of these piers, rise small cluster shafts finishing with other corbels, no doubt intended originally to carry the main ribs of the roof: for it is evident there has been another roof to the nave from traces still visible on the east side of the tower; and by the bequest of Walter Roberts, Esq. (temp. Henry VIII.) who gave "towards the making of the middle aisle, one half of all the *timbers* of that work:" which latter, can hardly be supposed to relate to the present flat roof, which is unquestionably of more modern construction. In the church is a large dipping place for the use of such baptists as are desirous of being admitted into the established church: it was provided by the Rev. John Johnson, A. M.* a former vicar, but has rarely been made use of;

* Mr. Johnson has left us the following interesting account of his predecessors. Memoirs of himself are contained in the Biog. Brit. vol. VII. append. p. 111.

Some account of the Vicars of Cranbrook.

1503. The first vicar of whom I can get any information was Richard Wylson. I have nothing of him but his name, and that from some panells of glass in the vicarage house in yellow paint bearing date 1503.

1534. Sir Hugh ap Rice returned a certificate into the exchequer, giving an account of the value of this vicarage, upon which certificate the vicarage was taxed according to the rate at which it now stands in the King's books. The copy of the certificate here follows.

CRANBROOK. The certificate of Sir Hugh ap Rice, vicar there; First a house with three roods of meadow 13s. 4d. Item, three mansions worth yearly 13s. 4d. Item, one other mansion worth yearly 20d. Item, privy tythes, certain mills, with other casual profits worth yearly 19l. Item, my offering days 7l. 6s. Item, other casual profits 53s. 4d. Summe 30l. 7s. 8d. Whereof to be deducted for the wages of the parish priest 10l. Item, for the procurations to the archdeacon 7s. Item, in quit rents paid yearly 14d. Sum deducted 10l. 8s. (2d. should have been added). And so remaineth *de clare* 19l. 19s. 6d. This was drawn A. D. 1534, and so it standeth to this day. This

only two instances we believe, being on record. A charity

L 2

I took from a transcript of Mr. John Ecton's, who is an officer for the first-fruits and tenths. §

1556. The parish is charged with a debt of 3l. due to Dr. Hurs for books. I suppose this Dr. being vicar had provided a new set of books for the popish service. That this debt was ever paid does not appear.

1558. Richard Fletcher was made vicar here, the first protestant predecessor that I meet with: he continued vicar twenty-seven years, and lies buried on the north side of the chancel, towards the upper end. He let a lease of the tenements belonging to this vicarage for 99 years to come, viz. from 1562 to 1661, and had it confirmed by the archbishop and the dean and chapter of Canterbury. During all this time the vicar received but 13s. 4d. per annum for them. His son Richard was dean of Peterborough when the Queen of Scots was executed at Fotheringay castle, and so displayed his loyalty on that occasion, that he soon became Bishop of Bristow (Bristol); but not till his father was first dead; viz. 1589: therefore the monument in our church says not true|| when it tells us, the father saw the son Bishop of Bristol. He was afterwards advanced to the See of Worcester and from thence to London. There he fell under the Queen's displeasure, and was suspended: that he was restored before his death is not certain. Both he and his brother Gibs, the famous ambassador to the Czar of Muscovy, made Cranbrook vicarage their nursery. Here their wives lay in, as appears by the register. And even after the father's death some of his son Gib's children were buried here. Venner the famous puritan preached here, whether as curate, or (as I rather suppose) lecturer, I know not. This was during the decline of father Fletcher's life, and the disgrace of archbishop Grindall. One would wonder, that Richard, afterwards bishop, did not use his interest with his father (if

¶ Every modus is presumed to be as ancient as the date of legal memory, viz. the 1st day of the reign of Richard I. 6th July 1189. This certificate is a convincing proof that the modus for the vicarial tythes of this parish existed not even in the reign of Henry VIII.

|| The monument, as I understand the inscription, does not say this; but that Richard Fletcher the son was Bishop of Bristol, at the time of setting up the monument: to this in my opinion, the word *hunc* refers.

was founded in this church, by J. Roberts of Glassenbury in

- he brought him hither) or with the vicar general to remove a man of such sorry notions and fantastick principles. Mr. Fletcher died 1585.
1585. Robert Roads, formerly president of St. John's College Cambridge, (where he was written) continued here till 1589. His wife and he were buried in the same year.
1589. William Eddy succeeded, and continued here in low circumstances, till he died, 1616. I find no memorials of him, but that he was paid by the churchwardens for transcribing the register fairly from 1558 into the large old parchment book: and that he had the clerk's wages given him for calling the psalm, &c. Mr. Fletcher and he continued vicars fifty-eight years, and I am persuaded that by these two long incumbencies the modus for vicar's tythes was established.
1616. Robert Abbot succeeded. What relation he was to the archbishop of that name I find not, but he was a man of eminent zeal and piety; and few, I am persuaded, out-did him in learning, and all commendable qualities. He defended the church against the Brownists, I don't know that any could do it better. I have read his book and can't but wonder to find such a man here, at that time of day. The sermons dedicated to the four principal families of the parish, viz. Roberts', Baker's, Henley's, and Courthope's, shew clearly that he was a much greater man in polemical, than in pulpit divinity. His "*Young man's warning-piece*" hath been more read than either of the other. It was published in 1635: the occasion of it was one Rogers a practising apothecary, who from a very pious youth became a very debauched man, and could not be prevailed upon to receive the sacrament at Easter, though he was to be excommunicated for that omission: and died soon after in great horrors and terrors. Abbot weathered out here the worst of times till 1648. Then he was by the Rump Committee for sequestrations sent to another benefice, which he had long enjoyed together with this. At Smarden there was an *Abbot*; but on comparing circumstances and considering Smarden books and ours I remember some years since I concluded, that he of Smarden could not be the same with this of Cranbrook. §

§ Mr. Johnson seems to have been mistaken in some parts of his account of Robert Abbot. Vide. *Ant. Wood Fast. Oxonienses*, vol. I. He is there mentioned as siding with the Presbyterians in the rebellion, A. D. 1642.

1460 "for a priest to say mass here for ever," "and Walter Roberts by will 13th Henry VIII. directed Thomas his son to find a priest to celebrate divine Service at St. GILES's ALTAR* in this church, for the souls of his father, mother, his wives and his own; for which service he should have ten marcs yearly, payable by his heirs for ever, out of his lands in this parish and Goudhurst."—The great east window in the chancel, contains much stained glass, but being for the most part made up of small pieces, obtained from other parts of the building, or elsewhere; nothing like design is to be traced in it. Near the vestry door in the south aisle is a complete pedigree

1648. John Williamson, a strict presbyterian, was intruded here. The parishioners engaged to make the vicarage 100l. per annum to him. To this end the churchwardens gathered the tythes and offerings, and the parishioners made up the deficiencies. But this could not last long.

1652. William Goodrick succeeded him. He made himself remarkable by walking in the market-place with his tything books in his hand, and his ink-horn hanging to his buttons every Saturday, and dunning his parishioners as he met them.

1662. John Cowper came in upon the Bartholomew act and so dismissed Goodrick (who yet for some time kept a conventicle here). Cowper was a man of great wit and fine parts, but no economist; he left four or five children to so many families in this country of the best quality, who all accepted their several legacies.]

1668. Mr. Charles Buck succeeded, a gentleman of good fortune, and who lived here with great hospitality, and was remarkable for his long sermons, till about 1694, it was thought necessary that he should retire to London for the cure of his head. From this time forward Mr. Crowther the school-master served this cure till Mr. Buck died, viz. February 1706; though Mr. Buck returned to the vicarage two or three years before his death.

[He was also master of the Queen's school, as appears from the school records.

* The altar of St. Giles, is probably that, near the small door in the south aisle.

of the Roberts' family, from *Walter*, who was sheriff of the county in the 5th year of Henry VII. down to *Jane* daughter and heiress of Sir Walter Roberts, Bart. and late Duchess of St. Albans, who died 1778, and lies buried in the family vault in this church. In the chancel are several brasses of the family; one contains a latin inscription in memory of Sir Thomas Roberts, Bart. of which the following translation forms a part:

Reader!
 Learn what I once was;
 First,
 An Esquire, then a Justice of the Peace,
 a Knight, a high Sheriff, and a Baronet;
 Behold
 what I now am;
 Dust, Ashes, and a Shadow,
 which are now the only little remnants
 of all my faded Honors.
 Whosoever thou art that readest these lines,
 Remember
 thou shall certainly rest with me
 In this Night of Death;
 And when thou leavest my Tomb,
 Be mindful of thine own.

Several helmets, banners, &c. of the ROBERTS' of Glassenbury are suspended in the chancel; and between the nave and south aisle stands the insulated pyramidical monument of the BAKER family. Near this last, a simply elegant tribute to the memory of the late Charles Nairn, Esq. of Milkhouse, has been put up; and against the same pier, a memorial of Captain Barwell Adams of his Majesty's L.V. Regiment of foot, a young man of considerable promise. The brasses of two slabs in the chancel, round which there have been inscriptions in Saxon letters, are wholly missing, but the designs may be still traced; and on a small base between two figures, in the pare-

ment near the vestry door, are these characters:

Ⓔ Ⓐ Ⓢ

which have given rise to much conjecture.* In the vestry is a memorial of the Rev. John Johnson, A. M. erected by his daughter, in which he is described as having been "richly adorned with chastity of manners, sharpness of genius, and profound learning." Against the wall in the north aisle is a tablet to the memory of the Rev. Joseph Disney, A. M. vicar of Cranbrook and Appledore, who died August the 3d 1777, aged 82: "having been respected as a gentleman, distinguished as a scholar, and exemplary as a clergyman," as also of his wife Ann, daughter of Mr. Ross, of Barbadoes, and their eldest son, the Rev. Matthew Disney, B. D. who "having proved himself worthy of such parents died March the 9th 1768 aged 37." Beside the above are those in memory of Abraham and Sarah Walter, and of their daughter Sarah, wife of Robert Cox, Esq. of Cheltenham; as also of John Scott, Esq. &c.—On the 2d of July 1725, while the bell was tolling for prayers, a part of this church fell down, by which damage was occasioned to the amount of 2376l. 13s. 6d. and an interruption of the service for upwards of six years.

C.

EDENBRIDGE which takes its name from the river *Eden*, one of the feeders of the Medway, lies at the extremity of the

* In 'Martin's Miscellanies' vol. I. p. 136, these characters are given, together with those on a pane of glass in the vicarage-house and proposed for the antiquarian to decypher; but no conjecture on them appears in that work. The former are unquestionably Saxon; but of the latter, after having compared them with almost every known alphabet, we can form no opinion:

Weald westward, and at some little distance southward of the sand hills; it is bounded on the west by the county of Surry, whence the river EDEN issues, and which directing its course eastward, crosses this parish, entering the Medway at Penshurst; in its way it receives the tribute of several lesser streams, flowing principally from the sand hills on the north.

In the *Textus Roffensis* it is called *Eddelnesbregge*, and in Latin *Pons-Edelmi*. Kilburne writes it *Eaton-bridge* and this is repeated both by *Harris* and *Hasted*, though they admit it is a corruption of its right name. The village stands on the road from Westerham to East-Grinstead, and at the distance of about five miles from the former. It contains but few good houses, and but very indifferent accommodations for the traveller; the buildings in general are mean, and irregular, and the road through it, contracted and dirty. Indeed the village is in perfect unison with the *general* aspect of the parish, which is cheerless and forbidding. To counterbalance these defects, it has the reputation of being healthy, and the land for the most part remarkably rich and productive: *Hasted* says; "whatever it may want in pleasantness is made up by health, fertility of soil, and its many local advantages equally profitable both to the landlord and occupier." Beside the village of Edenbridge, this parish contains the hamlets of Marsh-green, Stanfords-end, Marle-pit-hill, and Medhurst-row.

It has a fair annually on the 25th of April, for cattle, toys, &c.

In the *Philosophical Transactions* (vol. xlix. pt. I. p. 360) a singular phenomenon is noticed, which occurred in this parish on the 1st of November 1755, the day of the great earthquake at Lisbon. In a pond comprising an area of nearly an acre, across which ran a post and rail fence, and which the water almost covered, some persons being near, heard a

noise as if something fallen into the water, and hastening to learn what had occasioned it, to their great surprise saw the water open in the middle and expose the post and rail fence nearly to the bottom, at the same time they observed the water dashing up over a bank about two feet high, and perpendicular to the pond: not the slightest motion of the ground was perceptible, nor was there any wind stirring at the time. A shock of an earthquake was subsequently felt at this place on the 24th of January, 1758, about two o'clock in the morning, which shook the furniture of the houses and went off with a noise like a small gust of wind, without occasioning any damage. (Philos. Trans. vol. xlix. pt. 2. p. 614.)

THE MANOR OF STANGRAVE, alias EDEN-BRIDGE, claims over the greatest part of this parish, notwithstanding it has the manor of Westerham, *paramount* over it. This manor anciently gave name to a family who made it their principal place of residence. In the 6th year of Edward I. a charter of *free-warren* was obtained by Robert de Stangrave, for his demesne lands in Edenbridge and Hockenden in this county, and in the 14th of Edward III. this charter of *free warren* was confirmed to John Dynley, who immediately after passed away his interest in this estate, to Hugh de Audley, Earl of Gloucester, and Lord of the castle and manor of Tunbridge; whose daughter married Ralph Stafford, afterwards Earl of Stafford, and with his descendants, Dukes of Buckingham, it continued till the 13th of Henry VIII. when on the attainder of Edward Duke of Buckingham it fell to the crown, and was subsequently granted to Sir John Gresham, in which name it remained until the reign of Queen Anne.

The church (dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul) is situated on the east side of the village, having a spire steeple at the west end; in it are the remains of a *rood loft*, or gallery, in which was formerly placed the image of our Saviour on the

cross, and to which, at the back, was a private way for the priests, no doubt intended for *priestly* purposes. It is in the nature of a chapel to Westerham, and therefore not rated separately in the King's books.

According to the *commission of enquiry* in 1650, it was returned that in Edenbridge there was a parsonage inappropriate, that the vicarage tythes were worth 30l per annum, but there was no house or glebe land; and that the vicar of Westerham, had formerly received the tythes, but then, the person who supplied the cure there, received them for his salary; that the church was well situated, and had been a chapel of ease to Westerham, (*Westram*), from which it was almost five miles distant, and from which it had ever had distinct officers.

The impropriation was at the time of the *enquiry* in the hands John Streatfield, who farmed the same of the heirs of Sir Edward Gresham at the rent of fifty pounds per annum.

In the church are several monuments and memorials of the former inhabitants of this place, among which, the first in point of antiquity is that to the memory of John Selyard, whose effigy in brass, with a black letter inscription the date 1558, is on the north side of the altar.

EGERTON. The village and church of Egerton are pleasantly situated on the range of Quarry hills, which form the northern boundary of this district, from which a wide expanse of rich and varied country is presented to the view, the eye extending over the greater part of the Weald southward, and on the east stretching to the coast. The elevated situation of the village church, renders it a conspicuous object, and a prominent and interesting feature in the scene from various points, while it serves as a *termini*, or land-mark to the Weald in this quarter. This place and the parts adjacent on the east and west, have to boast a dry and fertile soil, a pure air, good water, and withal a picturesque and pleasant situation; but in that part of the parish below the hill, the country becomes less

pleasing, being more enclosed, and from the tenacity of the soil, very wet and dirty in the winter seasons. In this lower part are situated the small hamlets called Friggs-Forstall and Newland-green.

Subordinate to the manor of Charing are those of **WARDEN** alias **EGERTON** and **BRUSCOMBE**, which by purchase in 1750 became the property of Galfridus Mann, Esq. on whose death they devolved to his son Sir Horatio Mann, Bart.

BARLINGS, another manor in this parish was for several generations possessed by a family of the same name, but at length by an only daughter and heiress it was carried in marriage to William Sharpe, Esq. of this parish, whose son alienated it to Mr. John Ashbee of Little Chart, the present owner.—A court baron is held for this manor.

The church (dedicated to St. JAMES), is a substantial edifice, built of sand-stone, having a square tower at the west end surmounted with a beacon turret. **HARRIS** gives the following quaint description of this building; "The church" says he "is of two isles, (aisles) and *fair*, and of very good stone; a *fair* tower steeple, which may be seen afar off." According to tradition, this steeple as well as those of **LITTLE CHART** and **CHARING** were erected at the expence of Sir John Darell of Calehill, whose arms are supposed to have been carved on the shield, in the tower of this church, but this rests on conjecture only, or at least no evidence to this effect, can be drawn from the thing itself. John at Welle of Egerton, by will anno 1531, gave five marcs to the buying of a *new pair of organs* for this church.* In the church-yard are two fine yew trees.†

M 2

* Hasted.

† "Yews were planted in church-yards, (as well as in fields) not so much perhaps for their funeral and ever-green appearance, as for the use

FRITTENDEN, though now a distinct parish church from that of CHARING, was prior to the year 1640, considered but as a chapel of ease to the latter. It has always had the same owners with that church, and the lessees of both parsonages have ever been the same. It is a perpetual curacy in the gift of the dean and chapter of ST. PAUL's, who allow as a stipend to the curge 30l. per annum!! and this *liberal endowment* has been increased (by the parish) by the appropriation of a piece of land in *Stalisfield*, of the annual value of about 5l. and a small house in Egerton-street, formerly given by one of the BARLINGS, 'to maintain lights in the church.'

F.

FRITTENDEN. This obscure and inconsiderable parish lies north-eastward of Cranbrook; it possesses little to repay the stranger for a visit, yet the rides through it in the dry months of summer, are not unpleasant, the roads being well shaded and free from dust. Hasted in speaking of it, says, "It is a harrow from east to west and contains about seventy houses. It has an unpleasant and forlorn aspect. The soil is a deep, stiff clay, very wet and unkindly for tillage, inasmuch, that in rainy season, the occupiers have but little produce from their lands, which consequently keeps them very poor. The southern part of it is entirely covered with coppice wood; besides which, the shaves are frequent, and the hedge rows

of them in supplying wood to make bows in the times of archery. It is observable, that yew trees are more common in the hedge rows, in the southern counties bordering on the Sea, than in any other. In these counties, many church porches have a room over them, named the *spright-loft*. In this apartment it is probable the bows and arrows, as in a kind of armoury, were laid up for use; as the name seems to be taken from *spright*, signifying an arrow."

broad round the fields, which have quantities of large oak trees interspersed throughout them. The roads, from the soil, except in the driest seasons, are so deep and miry, as to be almost impassable; though it lies so obscure, that there is but little traffic through it."

The village, which consists of a few straggling houses of mean appearance, stands a little more elevated than the lands about it, and nearly in the centre of the parish. North-west of the street is a green called Frittenden-brook, which the occupiers of the houses round it, stock at their pleasure; and on the opposite side of the stream bounding it on the west is another called Singsted-green. The only tolerable house in the village, is that occupied by the clergyman, the Rev. Theophilus Jones. The church is placed in a spacious cemetery adjoining the village, and its lofty spire which is seen for many miles round, contributes much to improve the scenery of this part of the Weald. The building itself is simple and unaffected, sufficiently large for the accommodation of the neighbourhood, and on the whole well adapted for the purposes of religion.

If the projected Weald of Kent Canal, should be carried into effect, the advantages to these parts would be incalculable. Its roads would necessarily be improved, the number of horses kept for the purposes of husbandry lessened, and the value of landed property in a few years, more than doubled.

In this parish are the manors of Comden and Upper Readridge; the reputed manor of Bewper and those of Wallinghurst and Buckhurst. These two latter manors (now obsolete) were in the hands of the crown in the time of Henry VIII. who in his 29th year granted them to Sir Thomas Cromwell,* afterwards

* "Thomas Cromwell Earl of Essex, an eminent statesman in the reign of Henry VIII. was the son of a Blacksmith at Putney in Surry, and born about 1490. He had by nature a strong constitution and excellent parts, to which he added uncommon industry; and he was retained for some time as clerk or secretary to the English factory at Antwerp. On his return to England he was admitted into the family of Cardinal Wolsey as

created Earl of Essex, whose lands were *disgavelled* by the Act of the 31st year of that reign. On his attainder the year following, they again reverted to the crown, and were granted to Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst.



GOULDHURST, is situated westward of Cranbrook, by which, and the parishes of Hawkhurst, Lamberhurst, Horsmonden and Marden, it is bounded. The soil appears much the same as in the adjoining parishes of Cranbrook and Hawkhurst, but owing to the inequalities of its surface, has a much greater proportion of pasture than arable land. The low lands are well watered by several small streams, which uniting with

his solicitor; to whom he approved himself by his fidelity and diligence in several important affairs; and after the Cardinal's fall the King employed him in his own service, and raised him in a short time to several eminent dignities; he was successively made a privy counsellor, and master of the Jewel-house; clerk of the hanaper, and chancellor of the exchequer; principal secretary of state, and master of the rolls; lord keeper of the privy seal; a baron of the realm, and vicar general and vice-gerent over all the spirituality, under the King, who was declared supreme head of the church. Having been instrumental in promoting the reformation, the King granted him many noble manors and large estates, the spoils of the religious houses; advanced him to the dignity of Earl of Essex; and constituted him lord high chamberlain of England. The tide of prosperity, which had hitherto flowed in upon him, began now to take a turn; a scheme he laid to secure his greatness, proved his ruin; such is the weakness of human policy! He used his utmost endeavours to procure a marriage between King Henry and Anne of Cleves. As her friends were all Latherans, he imagined it might tend to bring down the popish party at court; and he expected great support from a Queen of his own making. But the capricious monarch, being disgusted with her person on the first night's cohabitation, took an invincible aversion to the promoter of the marriage, who was soon after arrested at the Council-table, attainted of high treason and heresy, and executed on Tower-hill, after six weeks imprisonment, July 1540."

the Teise, flow along the western side of the parish towards the Medway. The southern and eastern parts abound with thick coppice wood, and the parish generally is well timbered. Hasted observes, "It is very healthy; sixty years of age being esteemed if not the prime, at least, the middle age of life;" and this he in part accounts for, in a way generally creditable to the inhabitants of the Weald; "the inhabitants of these parts (*he adds*) being in great measure untainted with the vices and dissipation too frequently practised above the hill."

The *village of Goudhurst*, stands high and commands extensive views of the surrounding country, excepting towards the south east; the view in this direction being more circumscribed. On the highest ground stands the Church, a conspicuous object from all points; and near it originally, was the market-place, but which in 1650 was pulled down, and a smaller one built in the Broadway at the lower part of the village. The market, (long discontinued), was held weekly on Wednesdays, for cattle, provisions, &c. and together with a fair (still held on the 26th of August annually) was granted by Richard II. to Joane, widow of Roger de Bedgbury; the possessors of which estate claim to this time the *privilege* of holding both, by a yearly rent to the manor of Marden.

In the village itself, nothing occurs worthy of particular notice; its chief interest arising from its situation; the appearance generally is rather *picturesque* than *respectable*, the houses being principally of timber and plaister, or weather-tiled; and containing but few private dwellings of any consequence. The clothing business was carried on here to a considerable extent within the last century; but this trade, (as well as the manufacture of iron), has been transplanted to places more fortunately circumstanced.

A little removed from the town, eastward, and on the right of the road to Cranbrook, is the vicarage house, which has lately been considerably improved and modernized, by the

present incumbent, and through the turnpike on the left, and at the junction of two roads, a small house belonging to Mr. Newington, Surgeon; but only remarkable on account of the beauty of its position. Still further on the road to Cranbrook, and beyond the Chequers Inn,* on the right, is a small genteel residence, called Triggs, the property of a gentleman of the name of Greenland, (now in the West Indies,) but occupied by the Rev. Thomas Morgan. Nearly opposite to this last, another comfortable box presents itself, inhabited by Captain Willoughby Lake, R. N. and beyond on the same side, the neat modern dwelling of Thomas Ollive, Esq. pleasantly situated, having a paddock in front, from which to the N. and N. W. the eye is carried over a considerable extent of country, while the addition of a few well grown trees, in the foreground, render the landscape really charming. †

South west of the town and at the distance of about a mile, is Finchcocks, a seat formerly of considerable note, and possessed in the reign of Henry III. by a family of the same surname; it is now the property and residence of Robert Springett, Esq. who became possessed of it by purchase. The present house, an immense brick building, was erected by Edward Bathurst, Esq. at a great expence, who resided here till his death in 1772. It is not remarkable either for Architectural beauty or propriety of situation.

The most considerable seat here, is BEDGBURY, situated southward of the village, and in a great measure surrounded by large tracts of woodland, consisting principally of those known by the names of *Bedgbury Park* and the *Fryth woods*. The present building was erected by Sir James Hayes,

* The few houses in this part, Hasted distinguishes by the name of *LITTLE Goudhurst*, but this spot is better known as *Goudhurst Chequers*.

† On this scite stood the antient seat of the Lake's, called Taywell; several of this family lie buried in a vault, in the north aisle of the church.

a little removed from the scite of the old mansion. Though laying low, it commands some beautiful prospects, and the grounds about it are disposed with no inconsiderable share of taste. In the reign of Edward II. Bedgbury was vested in a family of that name; of whom John de Bedgbury died possessed of it in 1424: on his death it became the property of Agnes his sister, who carried it in marriage to John Colepepper, in which family* it continued till about the time of the restoration. It now belongs to Mrs. Cartier, relict of the late John Cartier, Esq. formerly Governor of Bengal, in the East Indies, who kept his shrievalty here in 1789, and by whom the house and lands were considerably improved.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, (who visited this place in her progress through Kent, in 1573) there was an extensive park adjoining to this seat, but it has been *disparked* many years, though the appellation is still retained in the neighbourhood.

Robert de Thurnham, in the reign of Henry II. founded a priory for canons of the order of St. Augustine, at a place then called *Hente* within the manor of Combwell, in this parish, and towards its endowment gave the said manor and other possessions; it was dedicated to St. MARY MAGDALENE and part of it (used as a farm-house) was standing until within these few years. A view of the remains of this priory, taken not long before they were pulled down is preserved in

N

* Camden (in his remains) observes, to the reputation of this family, that there were twelve Knights and Barons alive, of this house of Colepepper, at one time. This family for many generations, were of considerable note and spread over many parts of the county; though now sunk in obscurity and their possessions passed into other hands. Their rapid fall appears to have been occasioned by their associating with Sir Thomas Wyatt, in the ill fated insurrection excited by him against Queen Mary. In the church are several memorials of them.

"*Amstinch's Tunbridge-Wells and its neighbourhood.*" Tanner (in his *Monasticon*) says, "this was founded an Abbey, but on account of the charge of supporting the state of so great a prelate as an abbot, was, by reason of its slender revenues, degraded to a priory." On which Hasted observes, "If this was the case, which I find no where else mentioned, this change must have happened very early; for in 1283, it was again become a priory." On the suppression of the lesser monasteries, this priory, (then only of the clear annual value of 30l. 17s. 5½d.) with all its lands and possessions, was surrendered to the crown, by Thomas Vincent, the Prior of it, to whom a pension of 10l. per annum was granted for his future maintenance.

TWYSDEN BOROUGH, antiently called *Twysenden*, and now usually *Burr's-Farm*, (which name is a contraction from the word *Borough* to *Burgh*, and thence to *Burr*) was once reputed a manor, and lies in the hundred of West Barnfield, at a small distance from Bedbury: a place worthy of notice, as having been the antient inheritance of the family of Twysden, who took their name originally from it, being at first called *De Twysenden*, and in latin, *De Deana Fractu*, according to the quaint language of those times.

Adam de Twysenden, or Twysden, possessed this estate in the reign of Edward I. as did his descendant Roger Twysden, who in the fifth year of Edward IV. sealed with the impression of a cockatrice, in wax, as appears by a deed now in the hands of Sir William Jarvis Twysden, Bart. of East Peckham, a singular thing in those times, when crests were very unusual, and only began to be customary, when those eminent families, who took part in the two factions of the houses of York and Lancaster, assumed them as marks of distinction of the party they sided with. This crest is still borne by the different branches of the family.*

* Hasted.

"John Hermonden, Esq. of this parish, by will in 1679, gave 35l. per annum for ever, for the endowment of a Latin school, and charged his real estate in Tenterden with the payment thereof." This annuity has for many years been received by the Rev. Mr. Dowthwaite!!!

The church (dedicated to the VIRGIN MARY) is a large, but not (as Hasted describes it) a handsome building; the best parts of the exterior, are the east end, and part of the south side; but the west end, is shockingly disfigured by an heterogeneous and mis-shapen mass of stone work; in which however, a paltry and futile attempt at elegance is perceptible. This tower was erected about the year 1639, the former one, on which was a tall spire, having been destroyed by lightning, in the night of the 23d of August, 1637; the damage done on this occasion to the church amounted to nearly 3000l. Within the church, the objects most deserving attention, are the figures of a man and woman carved in wood, curiously habited in the ornaments and dress of their time, with two grey-hounds laying at their feet; these are placed in the recess of the bow-window in the south aisle, on a tomb of Bethersden marble, at the west end of which are the arms of Colepepper. There are several other monuments, not altogether unworthy the attention of the curious, but which it would be needless to describe. The wretched *daubings* which disgrace the altar, should be done away with; they were probably intended to further the purposes of Religion, but are admirably calculated to produce a contrary effect: a man must be gifted with more than common resolution, or unusually stupid, who can view these objects with indifference.

When Robert de Crevequer founded the priory of *Ledes* or *Leeds*, he gave it to the advowson of the church of *Gutherte* among others, together with two acres of land, in this parish. And the church, and vicarage of the church, remained part of

the possessions of the above priory, until its dissolution in the reign of Henry VIII. when it fell into the King's hands, who by charter settled both parsonage and advowson on the dean and chapter of Rochester with whom they now remain.*

* The former loose state of the police in this country will be evidenced by the following relation.

About the year 1747 the smugglers in these parts were grown so numerous and so formidable, by their daring and repeated attacks on the persons and properties of the inhabitants, and the horrid cruelties exercised on some who had opposed their extravagances; that the people of Gouthurst found themselves under the necessity, either, of deserting their homes and leaving their property wholly at the mercy of these marauders, or of uniting to oppose by force their lawless inroads. The latter alternative was at length embraced, and a paper expressive of their abhorrence of the conduct of the smugglers and their determination to oppose them was drawn up and subscribed to, by a considerable number of persons who assumed the appellation of '*the Gouthurst band of militia*;' at the head of whom was a young man of the name of Sturt, a native of Gouthurst, who had recently received his discharge from a Regiment of foot, under the command of General Harrison, and by whose persuasions they had been principally induced to this resolution. Intelligence of this confederacy soon reached the ears of the smugglers, who contrived to way-lay one of the militia, and by means of torture and confinement extorted from him a full disclosure of the plans and intentions of his colleagues. After swearing this man not to take up arms against them, they let him go, desiring him to inform the confederates, that they (the smugglers) would on a certain day, named, attack the town, and murder every one therein, and burn it to the ground. Sturt, on receiving this information convened his little band, and having pointed out the danger of their situation without exertion and unanimity, engaged them in immediate preparation for the day of battle. While some were sent in quest of fire-arms, others were employed in casting balls, making cartridges and providing every means for resistance and defence, which time and opportunity afforded. At the time appointed, the smugglers, headed by one *Kingsmill*, made their appearance before the entrenchments of the militia, and after some horrid threats and imprecations by their leader, a general discharge of fire arms was given by the smugglers, and returned immediately by the militia, by which one of the smugglers fell; but it was not until two more had lost their lives and many been wounded,



HADLOW, was part of those vast possessions with which the conqueror enriched his half brother Odo, Bishop of Baieux,* and whom afterwards he created Earl of Kent, under the title of his lands it is thus entered in the record of Domesday.

Richard de Tonebridge holds of the Bishop (of Baieux) Hastow. It was taxed at six sulings. The arable land is twelve carucates. In demesne there are three, and forty-seven villeins, with fifteen borderers, having fifteen carucates. There is a church and ten servants, and two mills of eleven shillings, and twelve fisheries of seven shillings and sixpence, and twelve acres of meadow, wood for the pannage of sixty hogs. In the time of King Edward the confessor, and afterwards, and now, it was and is worth thirty pounds. Eddeve held it of King Edward.

that they quitted the field of battle: they were pursued by the militia and some of them taken, who expiated their enormities on the gallows.

General BRUNT, was for some time prior to his death, master of the poor-house at this place.

* Of the liberality of the conqueror, an opinion may be formed, from the following statement: "for instance, he granted to Hugh de Abriacas, his sister's son, the whole county of Chester, which he erected into a palatinate, and rendered by his grant almost independant of the crown. Robert, Earl of Mortaigne, had 973 manors and lordships: Allan, Earl of Britanny and Richmond, 442: Odo, Bishop of Baieux, 439 (*principally in the county of Kent*) Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutance, 280: Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, 107: William, Earl Warrenne, 298, besides 28 towns or hamlets in -Yorkshire: Todencel, 81: Roger Bigod, 123: Robert, Earl of Ex, 110: Roger Mortimer, 132, besides several hamlets: Robert de Stafford, 130: Walter de Eurus, Earl of Salisbury, 46: Geoffrey de Mandeville, 118: Richard de Clare, 171: Hugh de Beauchamp, 47: Baldwin de Ridvers, 164: Henry de Ferrars, 222: William de Percy, 119: Norman D'Ascq, 32." (*Home*).

The parish of HADLOW, or as in old deeds it was sometimes written *Haudelo*, and in *Domesday*, *Hastow* (as above) lies northward of Tunbridge, and is bounded on the north by West-Peckham, on the south by the Medway, and extends westward to the North-frith woods and the parish of Tunbridge. THE BOROUGH OF HADLOW, within the Lowy of Tunbridge, contains the *parish of Hadlow*, with the church, except a small district in the northern part of it, which is in the hundred of Littlefield.

The country about Hadlow is by no means pleasant, it is in general flat, low, and in some parts swampy, the enclosures small, and the hedge-rows broad. The soil towards the upper part of the parish is poor, inclining to gravel, but the lower grounds are fertile producing good corn, and esteemed particularly kindly for hops, of which there are considerable plantations in the neighbourhood; the grass lands, especially towards the river, are very rich, and capable of fattening beasts of the largest size. The rivulet called *the Sheet*, which flows from Plaxtol by Oxenhoath, crosses this parish, and unites with the Medway a little above Brand-bridges.* The high-road from Maidstone through Mereworth to Tunbridge, crosses this parish over Hadlow-common, at the northern boundary of it, whence it goes through the town or village of Hadlow; between which and the river is Fish-hall and Hadlow-place; and more eastward the small hamlets of Goldwell-green, Baines, and Mill-street.

On the bank of the Medway, at the west end of the parish, is a wharf and landing place, called Hadlow-stairs, for the lading and unlading of timber, coals, and other merchandize.

* Near Brand-bridges, and at the east end of the parish, is what is here called a *flowing lock*, being an ingenious contrivance to pen up the water to a certain height, by which means it is capable of being let out in dry seasons, to flow over and moisten the adjoining meadows, which is at such times of the greatest advantage to them.

A fair is yearly held in Hadlow town on Whit-Monday. . . . The seignory of this manor was in the time of Henry III. claimed by the archbishop of Canterbury, and in the forty-second year of that reign, an agreement was entered into between archbishop Boniface and Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford, concerning the customs and services which the archbishop required of the earl, on account of his possessions in *Hanlo*, &c. when it was required of the earl, that he should do homage to the former, the service of four Knights' fees, and quit to his court at Canterbury, and that he should be the high-steward of him and his successors at their great feast, whenever it should happen that the archbishop should be enthroned. By marriage with a daughter of Gilbert, earl of Gloucester, (grandson of the above Richard de Clare), Hugh de Audley became possessed of this manor, and as a further consequence of such marriage, was created earl of Gloucester, in the eleventh year of King Edward III. dying without male issue, it became the property of his only daughter Margaret, who carried it in marriage to Ralph Stafford, Lord Stafford, with whose descendants it remained until the 13th of Henry VIII. when on the execution of Edward, Duke of Buckingham for high treason, his estates were seized by the crown, and about three years afterwards, the manor of Hadlow with other possessions of the late duke, were granted by the King to Sir Henry Guildford, comptroller of his household, to hold by Knights' service.

On his death in the twenty-third of King Henry VIII. this manor reverted to the crown, and in the fourth of Edward VI. was granted to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, afterwards created Duke of Northumberland, and who in the seventh of the same reign exchanged this and other premises with the King for lands in several other counties. In the first of Elizabeth it was granted together with the park called North-fryth to her kinsman, Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon, to hold in

capite, in which family it continued until about the 16th of James I. when this manor was conveyed to James Faircloth, M. D. of London.*

This manor holds a court leet and court baron, and is wholly independant of the court leet of the manor of Tunbridge.

HADLOW PLACE, a seat and estate in this parish was in early times possessed by a family of the same name, of whom Nicholas de Hadlow, is found on the list of those Kentish gentlemen, who were with King Richard I. at the siege of Acon, in Palestine, and John de Hadlow, a descendant of the above, attended Edward I. in his expedition into Scotland, in the 28th year of his reign and who for his remarkable services there, particularly at the siege of Carlaverock, was made Knight banneret by that Prince.

FROMONDS, is a manor here, which in the 43d of Henry III. was in the possession of Simon Fromond, who in that year was chosen one of the twelve jurats on the part of the Earl of Gloucester, to determine the bounds of the Lowy, in a dispute between him and the Archbishop. His successor in it was Peter Fromond, whose house is mentioned in a perambulation of the Lowy, taken in the 8th year of Edward I. being just within the boundary of that district.

CROMBURY, alias EAST CROMBURY, is another manor which according to the archives of the church of Rochester was at one time called *Grancheberi*, and afterwards *Crongeberi*. This place was soon after the conquest in the possession of William, son of William de Hersmundenne, who gave the tenths of it to the monks of St. Andrew's priory, in Rochester, (for which a composition of five shillings a year was agreed to) at which time it was accounted an appurtenance to the manor of Mereworth, and afterwards came into the possession of a fam-

* The present owner of this manor, Walter May, Esq. has lately erected a castellated mansion, near the church, of which it is unnecessary to make any further mention.

ly of that name: John de Mereworth, in the 20th year of Edward III. paid aid for the manor of Mereworth with Crongebury, held of the Earl of Gloucester as one Knight's fee.

Beside the above is

FISH-HALL, formerly the residence of John de Fisher, so called from his being invested by Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, Lord of the Lowy of Tunbridge, with the privilege of fishing freely and without controul within his jurisdiction. And

BARNES-PLACE a considerable estate belonging to Francis Motley Austen, Esq. of Sevenoaks.

The church* (dedicated to ST. MARY) is a small building with a low pointed steeple standing on the east side of the town, and as early as the reign of King John, it was part of the possessions of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, commonly called the Knights hospitallers; for in the last year of that reign, anno 1216, Benedict, bishop of Rochester, at the presentation of the prior and brethren of that hospital, admitted and instituted Adam de Fontibus to this church, saving to the prior and brethren the ancient pension of two shillings yearly paid to them from it; and the right likewise of the church of Rochester in all matters, and the right of those who were ac-

O

* On the north side of the tower, is exhibited one of the most indecent notices we ever remember to have seen: had such an one been placed against the meanest tap-house, or in any other situation where there was merely a possibility of its ever meeting the eye of decency, it would have been justly censurable: such at least is our opinion; but it is evident the people of Hadlow have not indulged such fastidious notions, since they have allotted it the most conspicuous situation on their parish church, where it has been suffered to remain nearly a century!! If there is any sense of decency remaining, we trust, after these observations, it will be exerted to remove the reproach to which the inhabitants of this place have rendered themselves obnoxious.

customed to take tythes in this parish, separated from the mother church.

On the establishment of the preceptory in the adjoining parish of West-Peckham, by those Knights, this church was allotted as an appendage to it; in which state it continued till the general dissolution of these religious establishments; when its lands and revenues were seized by the King. At this time the rectory or parsonage of Hadlow was esteemed a manor.

The advowson of this living is now in the patronage of the Rev. Philip Monypenny, but a tripartite division has been made of the parsonage. The first part comprises the manor of the rectory of Hadlow, together with all houses, glebes, tythes, and other appurtenances lying in Hadlow-ward. The second, consists of the tythes arising within the ward of Stair; and the third, those that accrue from the ward of Goldwell or Colweld.

HIGH HALDEN. This parish lies north-eastward of Tenterden, and in ancient records was sometimes written Hathewolden. The following is the account given by *Hasted* of this place.

"The parish of Halden (says he) is situated very obscurely, in as unpleasant a part as any within this county; it is about three miles long and two broad, and has about one hundred houses in it. It is so little frequented as hardly to be known beyond its own neighbourhood. The village is nearly in the centre of the parish, with the church and parsonage close to it on the east side. The soil is a deep stiff clay. The turnpike road from Tenterden to Bethersden and Ashford, leads through it, which as well as the rest of the roads throughout it, are hardly passable after any rain, being so miry, that the traveller's horse frequently plunges through them up to the girths of the saddle;* and the waggons sinking so deep in the

* Since the time above alluded to, a good hard road has been formed from Tenterden to Halden and from thence to Bethersden and Ashford.

ruts, as to slide along on the nave of the wheels and axle of them. The roads are all of great breadth, from fifty to sixty feet and more, with a breadth of green sward on each side; the hedges being filled with oak trees, whose branches hang over to a considerable extent, and render the surface near them damp, and the prospect always gloomy. In some few of the principal roads, as from Tenterden hither, there is a stone causeway about three feet wide, for the accommodation of horse and foot passengers; but there is none further on till near Bethereden, to the great distress of travellers. When these roads become tolerably dry in summer, they are ploughed up and laid in a half circle to dry, the only amendment they ever have. In extreme dry weather in summer, they become exceedingly hard, and by traffic so smooth as to seem glazed, like a potter's vessel, though a single hour's rain renders them so slippery, as to be very dangerous to travellers. The country here is low, flat and dreary, and very wet and miry, as is this whole hundred and the country northward of it, as far as the quarry hills; the farm houses and cottages are thinly scattered about, and meanly built of timber and plaister. There is a great deal of oak coppice-wood interspersed throughout the parish, having many fine large trees of the same kind in them."

After slightly mentioning the three following houses, as formerly of some note, viz. *Halden place*, *Brickhill-house*, and *Grantan-house*, he concludes with this remark, "and there were formerly more gentlemen's seats in this parish, all which are fallen to decay, and there is not one now residing in it." To which, below, he adds, "Edward Jordan, a learned physician, was born here, and died in 1632."

According to *Philipott* (and afterwards repeated by *Harris*), this parish contains nothing worthy of note, but *Hales-place*: his words are these, "HALDEN, in the hundred of Blackborne

and Barkley has nothing worthy in it that may oblige a remembrance but only Hales-place, from whence, as from their fountain, the several streams of the Hales, that in divided rivulets have spread themselves over the whole county, did originally break forth. But where Hales-place is now placed, or in what angle of the parish it is situated, I confess I cannot instruct myself, unless it be that great house which was the original seat of the Scots, before they planted at Congerherst in Haukherst, and which Reginald Scott sold to Sir Edward Hales." But this surmise and his reasoning on it, are equally ill founded, at least if Hasted is to be credited, who appears to entertain no doubt on the subject; he says "HALES-PLACE is an ancient well timbered mansion, situated about a mile eastward from the church, and is eminent for having been the original seat of the family of Hales, in this county. Nicholas Hales was resident here in the reign of Edward III. as were his descendants till about the reign of Henry VI. when they removed to the adjoining parish of Tenterden. After which it seems to have continued in this family till it was at length sold to—Waterman, in whose descendants it remained, down to Mr. Richard Waterman, who lately resided in it."

THE OLD HOUSE, formerly called HALDEN-HOUSE (the same which Philipott supposes to have been the original seat of the Hales's in this county) stands a small distance northward from the church, which, though it was the habitation of the Scots, of Haldea, yet seems to have been the property of the Maneys, one of whom, Sir Anthony Maney, of Linton, appears to have demised to John Scot, of this place, his capital house, with the park and lands belonging to it, in this parish and Bethersden, for a term of years, with a covenant of renewal for a further length of time, at forty marks per annum. In this name it continued down to Raynold Scot, who soon after the death of Charles I. alienated his right in this estate to Sir Edward Hales, Bart.

The manor of TIFFENDEN, formerly written Tipindene, situated in the southern part of this parish, was anciently of such note as to be recorded in Domesday, which very few estates in these parts of the Weald were. It was then part of the possessions of Hugo de Montfort, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered:

In Blacheburne hundred, Hugo de Montfort himself holds half a yoke in Tepindene, which Norman held of King Edward, and it was taxed at half a yoke. There are two villeins with half a carucate. It was always worth, and is worth one hundred pence.

Hugo de Montfort, before mentioned, was the son of Thurstan de Bastenberg, a Norman, who accompanying the Conqueror, was with him at the fatal battle of Hastings, and for his services was rewarded with many lordships in different counties, and among them with this of Tependene. The scite where the ancient mansion stood, is still visible, with a large moat round it, but there has been no house on it for a great length of time. Sir Edward Knatchbull, Baronet, is the present owner of this estate.

North-westward from the church there is a large moat, which Hasted observes "Seems very ancient; but there has never been any bricks, or any other marks of a building found."

The church (dedicated to ST. MARY) consists of two aisles and three chancels with an uncouth wooden steeple at the west end, covered with a pointed, shingled roof. This tower erected in the reign of Henry VI. contains five bells. In this place is a charity school founded by one of the Tildens and endowed with lands situate in the parish of Biddenden under the government of ten trustees. This parish in *Val. Beneficiorum*, 1695, is put down as a vicarage; but Bishop Williams in his map of Canterbury, makes it a rectory. 'Tis valued in the King's books at 19l. 4s. 6d. per annum. (Philipott.) Hasted, says it is a rectory, and part of the ancient possessions

of the see of Canterbury. It has five acres of glebe land attached to it.

HAWKHURST, situated on the south side of the Weald, is surrounded on the north, east and west, by the parishes of Cranbrook, Benenden and Sandhurst, and bounded on the south by the river Rother, (Kent Dyke) which divides the counties of Kent and Sussex; but a small part of this parish called *Huselden*, lies within the county of Sussex, or rather on the south side of the Rother; a deviation in the course of the river, having taken place, on the erection of a new bridge over it, on the road from Hawkhurst to Hurst-Green.*

The village of† Hawkhurst is divided into two parts:‡ that in which the church is situated, called the *Moor*, and *Highgate*, (so called from its elevated situation) about three quarters of a mile distant, standing on the high road from London to Rye.

The situation of both these spots is particularly pleasing, though differing materially in character; in the former there is an appearance of quiet and repose, which cannot fail of pleasing those who have the smallest relish for rural retirement, while the latter has an air of cheerfulness and gentility, rarely observable in places equally remote from large towns: they

* A sufficient account of this variation of the course of the Rother, is preserved in Kilburne; but it is only valuable as a parochial record.

† Hawkhurst tho' at present but a village, had anciently a market, by grant of the 5th of Edward I. to the abbey of Battle, kept on Tuesday's upon the green against Elford's, the former seat of the family of Boys; but it had in Kilburne's time been long discontinued, though there were persons, who remembered the market-cross; and he says, that in his own recollection a small house, called St. MARGARET'S CROSS, was remaining, in which the corn was put which was sold on market days during the existence of the market, and that some of the shops were still standing.

‡ *Hasted* describes these as two distinct villages.

are both delightfully placed, commanding extensive views, over a rich and varied country.

The conveniences afforded by a daily post, and the passing to and fro of the Rye coach, with the advantages of good shops, a plentiful supply of all the necessaries of life, good water, and healthy air, render Hawkhurst peculiarly desirable as a place of retirement.

The manor of SLAPMILL, alias MOORHOUSE, which includes the *dennæ* of Hawkhurst, was anciently esteemed as an appendage to the royal manor of Wye, the liberty of which extends over the greatest part of this parish, and passed as such with that manor, in the gift made of it by William the Conqueror, to the Abbey of Battel, at the first foundation of it in the year 1067.

In the reign of King John, Odo abbot, and the convent of Battel, granted by charter, (to which there is no date) to the owners of the lands in this parish, within their liberty of the manor of Wye, by the name of his men of Hawkhurst, *the ville of Hawkhurst*, at a certain rent in money, hens, and eggs. And afterwards the abbot and convent, anno 14th Edward I. granted to them, by the name of their tenants at Hawkhurst, all the tenements there which they held of his fee, in certain *dennes* therein mentioned, to hold at a yearly rent, reserving suit to their court of Wye from three weeks to three weeks, by two men only.

In this state it continued until the suppression of this abbey in the 30th of Henry VIII. when it came with the manor of Wye, into the hands of the crown, whence the royalty, with the quit-rents at Hawkhurst appendant to that manor, which still continued there, was granted, by the name of *the manor of Morehouse*, with its appurtenances, anno 33d Henry VIII. to Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst, to hold *in capite* by Knight's service. His descendant Sir Henry Baker, Knight and Baronet, anno 17th King James I. conveyed his interest in it to

Henry Carey Lord Hunsdon, lord of the manor of Wye, which had been granted to his grandfather* of the same name, by Queen Elizabeth, in her 3d year. He was afterwards created Viscount Rochford, and Earl of Dover; soon after which he sold both the manor of Wye, and this of the denne of Hawkhurst, alias Moorhouse, with their appurtenances, to Sir Thomas Finch, Knight and Baronet, of Eastwell, who, on the death of his mother in 1633, succeeded to the titles of Viscount Maidstone and Earl of Winchelsea. In his descendants these manors continued down to Daniel, Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, who died in 1769, without issue male, and by his will devised them, among the rest of his estates in this county, to his nephew George Finch Hatton, Esq. now of Eastwell, the present possessor of them.†

The court baron held for this manor, still continues to be kept under the same form, for the purpose of presenting alterations of tenancies and the choice of reeves, who collect the reserved rents still paid to the Finch family, who are owners of the royalty, but have no other claim on the property of the freeholders.

This parish hath several lands, &c. belonging to it, left to pious and charitable uses, viz.

Henry Patson and William his son by deed anno 22d Edward IV. conveyed to the use of this parish for ever, a messuage and an acre of land, adjoining to the church yard, called *the church house*, the rent of which is employed towards the reparation of the church. Kilburne in his survey, p. 134 says, upon part of this land was erected an alms house, and another

* This is the same to whom Elizabeth granted the manor of Bidborough, &c. was Earl of Monmouth and cousin german to Elizabeth, and educated with Charles I. He was a great traveller, and suffered much by the civil wars. He composed nothing of his own; but translated from several foreign authors, no less than seven folios, two octavos, and a duodecimo. Died 13th June 1661, aged 45.

† Hasted.

house, usually called the Sexton's house, the same having been, from about the beginning of the reign of King James I. used for the habitation of the Sexton.

Thomas Iddenden devised by will in 1556, several messuages and lands at or near Highstreet, in this parish, to be for ever employed for pious uses, and are now of the annual value of being vested in the churchwardens and four other trustees, the produce of which is given away at christmas yearly, in gift money.

Thomas Gibbon, by deed, anno 18th of Elizabeth, granted to trustees for ever, an annuity of 43s. and 4d. per annum out of his messuage and three pieces of land upon the denne of Amboldeshurst, containing seven acres; which annuity was purchased of him by the parishioners, to be employed towards the maintenance of the church.

Sir Thomas Dunk, by will in 1718, gave the sum of 2000*l.* to be laid out in building and endowing a free school and six alms houses at Highgate, for six decayed housekeepers, three men and three women; the schoolmaster to receive 16*l.* per annum, and the alms people 6*l.* each. The school and alms houses were accordingly erected and endowed, by William Richards, Esq. his executor; (the surplus of these sums, after the completing of the buildings, being laid out in the purchase of a farm); who, to make the building and endowment more compleat, added to the 2000*l.* about 800*l.* of his own money, and further by his will ordered, that a further sum not exceeding 250*l.* should be laid out in the purchase of lands, the income of which should be employed to augment the salary and pensions payable to the master and alms-people. In pursuance of which bequest, George Dunk, Earl of Halifax, who married Anne, only daughter and heir of William Richards, (as being the representative of the executor of Sir Thomas Dunk, as perpetual visitor) in 1753; in consideration of the said 250*l.* and 70*l.* raised from the sale of timber from Tilden, the estate settled before on this charity, conveyed to the trustees of it, and their successors for ever, being the minister of Hawkhurst, and ten others, a messuage and land lying near Fourtrows, in this parish and in Sandhurst, of the yearly rent of 17*l.* by which means the salaries of the Schoolmaster and alms-people were increased. The present salary of the master is 56*l.* per annum, and of the alms-people 17*l.*

The school and alms-houses, (a neat, uniform, brick structure, situated on the north side of the road at Highgate) are under the management of respectable trustees.

A fair is held yearly near the church, on the 10th of August,

(St. Lawrence's day, the patron of the church,) under a grant from King Edward I. and Kilburne mentions another having been kept on the 14th of February, but which in his time had been long discontinued.

Within the parish were formerly five crosses, two alone of which remained in Kilburne's time, which he terms *Watch-houses*, and very probably were so converted, after the reformation. These crosses were intended as stimulants to piety; in the dark ages of popery and superstition.*

The most considerable portion of woodland in this parish, is on the western side adjoining to Goudhurst; being part of the Fryth woods, at present the property of E. J. Curteis, Esq. of Windmill-Hill, near Battle. The soil is various, generally a clay, abounding with marle, but in the northern parts, there is a considerable portion of sand. The only manufactory carried on in this place, is of worsted, by Mr. B. Winch, who employs a number of hands.

Hawkhurst contains several genteel residences, of which it may be expected some notice should be taken.

The most ancient, perhaps, is *Enronde*, which, passing through the families of Castleman, Conghurst and Roberts, was, in the 12th of Elizabeth alienated by Edmund Roberts to Richard Boys, Gent. in which name and family it remained upwards of two centuries; but by purchase has become the property of Mr. Richard Winch. It stands, a small distance eastward of the church and is an object of much picturesque interest; being analogous with the surrounding scenery.

A little removed from this, southward, is a substantial residence erected within these few years by Jesse Gregson, Esq. at a considerable expence.

And beyond this last is *Lilliden*, a neat modern fronted

* For an account of religious, memorial and boundary crosses, &c. see Britton's arch. antiquities. vol. 1. 1



M. Dubourg, Sqn

ELFORDS,
Hawkhurst.

Published Decr 1865. by S. Reader Bookbinder Cranbrook.

T. D. W. Diarm. del.

house, standing in a lawn agreeably disposed and from which the views to the southward, though limited, are extremely interesting. As early as the reign of Elizabeth, this place was the residence of the Chittendens, eminent clothiers here, in which name it continued down to John Chittenden, Gent. but is at present the property and residence of John Osborne, Esq.

Opposite the church (northward) a small genteel residence occupied by Robert Matter, Esq.

On the right of the road from the Moor to Highgate stands HALL HOUSE, for upwards of two centuries in the family of Mercer; but which by purchase in 1662. came into the possession of Nathaniel Collyer, Esq. and from him to his grandson Dr. Nathaniel Lardner*, who being unmarried, bequeathed his property at Hawkhurst to his sister's daughter and her husband Mr. Joseph Jennings, by whose son† it is at present possessed. In the appearance and situation of this house there is much of comfort.

TONGS, situated in a retired part of the parish eastward of Highgate, was the residence of Sir Thomas Dunk (whose munificent charitable donations have been before noticed) and in whose family it had been from the commencement of the fifteenth century. It is at present the residence and property of Frederick Wilson, Esq. a gentleman formerly in the East India company's service.

FOWLES, situate at the east end of Highgate, was lately possessed by Sir John Brewer Davis, Knight, a descendant of

P 2

* Dr. Nathaniel Lardner an eminent dissenting divine, author of "The credibility of the Gospel History;" of "the Testimonies of the ancient Jews and Pagans in favor of Christianity;" "the history of Heretics," &c. &c. Born 1684, died 1768.

† Author of the account of Hawkhurst in the Bibliotheca Topog. Brit.

Richard Kilburne, Esq. author of the survey of this county, published in 1659, and who died possessed of this estate in 1678. It is now by purchase become the property of Alexander Balmanno, Esq. The situation of this seat, now residing on the scite of the old house, is perhaps the most desirable in the county.

Near Flimwell on the south of the road, is a good brick house, very pleasantly situated, built by ~~Gray~~ the smuggler; now the residence† and property of Mr. Wardroper, Solicitor. About a mile beyond on the same side of the road, and near to Highgate, is New Lodge, occupied by a lady of the name of Goodwyn.

On the road from Gills-green to Benenden is a retired situation, is *Atwaters*, the residence of John Dainnoll Mercer, Esq. but only remarkable on account of the genuine hospitality of its owner: this gentleman, though content with so humble a dwelling, possesses very extensive landed property, in the counties of Kent and Sussex, and is most probably the wealthiest individual in the parish in which he lives. At this place the shock of the earthquake, so generally felt on the 18th of January, 1812, was so violent, as to alarm its inhabitants for their safety.

Besides those above mentioned, are several other respectable residences, but which we are unable to particularise, having already very much exceeded the prescribed limits of this article, and as yet taken no notice of the church; a material object of consideration.

The CHURCH (dedicated to St. LAWRENCE) was founded by

* For some account of the gang to which he belonged, see under *Goudhurst*, p.100. Gray died under sentence of transportation in Newgate.

† This house though usually termed in Hawkhurst, is in fact, in the parish of Etchingham.



M. Dunsberg, Sculp.

**FOWLERS,
Hawkhurst.**

Published Dec. 1. 1851 by S. Kneller, Bookbinder, Cranbrook.

J. B. W. Dunsberg, del.

the Abbot of Battle, in the reign of Edward III. and is a very creditable specimen of the improved style of architecture in that reign. In the time of Edward II. a manifest change had taken place, in the decorative parts of our religious edifices, and these innovations were further extended and confirmed in the reign of his successor, and with regard to the principal parts and members continued in use, until the general suppression of monasteries, by Henry VIII. from which time, this style of architecture, for want of encouragement, rapidly declined, and was finally supplanted, by that barbarous and incongruous fashion which characterizes the buildings of the days of Elizabeth, and of her immediate successor.

The east front of Hawkhurst church, is unquestionably the finest piece of architecture within the Weald, and well worthy the attention of the admirers of this style of building; the windows in the north aisle, and another immediately beyond, on the same side, are also deserving of notice. The small building at the east end, which has given rise to a variety of conjecture and very erroneous conclusions, was most probably a *confessional*; but this, the author of "a sketch of the history of Hawkhurst," (published in continuation of the *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica*) might not be disposed to admit; he says, page 7. "The building at the east end, cannot ever have been a CHAPEL, as its dimensions are too small, its situation precisely against the altar, and no appearance of any roof; it has most probably been a burial place at the time of the foundation of the church, with which it appears coeval, for some great family of the place."

One of the reasons, assigned for its not having been a CHAPEL, is evidently erroneous, as any person at all acquainted with the architecture of those times, or indeed with the most common principles of building, may easily satisfy themselves; for what purpose, but that of supporting the roof, was a set off, left on a level with the embrasures of the parapet, or of

what use would have been glass in the openings on the sides, if the top was left uncovered. And again, it is concluded that because it was *precisely* against the altar, that therefore it could not possibly, have had any direct communication with the church. This observation and the conclusion which is supposed to be grounded on it, are equally objectionable. In the times of general ignorance and priestly imposture, it was not unusual to leave an interval between the altar and the extremity of the east end either as a confessional or for some other purpose best known to the priesthood; * such might have been the case in the instance before us, and then, a direct communication with the church might have been admitted, as probable at least; but there is no necessity of seeking so far to prove the fact, the former entrance from the main building, being still to be traced, though concealed on the inner side by the modern erections about the altar. The entrance in question was on the right of the present communion table, and close on the left of the external entrance to this small building, for notwithstanding it is neatly closed with the same materials of which the building is composed, yet the arch stones are still remaining in the wall. The supposition that it has been the burial place of some person or family of note, is too conjectural to be admitted, in the absence of every thing like a proof; and though the fact were established beyond a doubt, it does not in any measure militate against the notion of its having been a *confessional*; this indeed appears the only reasonable conclusion, and the external entrance to it, rather serves to corroborate the supposition.

The windows of this church were formerly filled with much curious painted glass,† which was almost wholly demolished,

* An instance of this kind may be seen in the remains of Bayham Abbey.

† Though the use of stained glass had been introduced in our churches nearly a century before, this fashion did not become prevalent until the reign of Edward III.

during the civil wars and popular commotions of the sixteenth century. Of the little that now remains, are the mutilated arms of Edward III. and his son, in the farthest window in the north chancel; and the arms of the abbey of Battle, of Etchingham and of Pashley in the first of the three north windows; the latter being still tolerably perfect. The font which appears coeval with the building, has been well preserved, and is a very neat piece of workmanship. "In the south chancel of the church was anciently the image of the Virgin Mary; and several tapers or lights were also in this church, called the Beam-light, the Pascal-light, Judas'-candles, St. James'-light, and St. Lawrence's-light; and over the north porch of the church is a room, called the treasury;* wherein were deposited in a chest, several antient writings concerning the tenants of the twelve *dens* in and near this parish in Wye liberty, and concerning other lands and rights of the parishioners."† The principal memorials in the church are those to the memory of the Boys's; that to Richard Kilburne, the perambulator, in the north chancel, and the small elegant mural monument to the memory of Nathaniel Lardner, D. D. Beside these, in the middle aisle, is that to the memory of Sir Thomas Dunk; and the brasses for John Roberts, his wife and children, and to which formerly was an inscription in black letter. By the act of uniformity in 1662. Mr. Ephraim Bothel was ejected from this living and the incumbents of many benefices in this neighbourhood, were also silenced, as those of Cranbrook, Benenden, Biddenden, Goudhurst, Lamberhurst, Horsmonden, Rolvenden, Staplehurst and Tenterden.

Hawkhurst is now esteemed a perpetual curacy, and is in the patronage of the dean and chapter of Christ-church, Oxford.

HEADCORN. The situation of this parish is far from pleasant, it lies flat and low and the general aspect of it is cheer-

* According to Kilburne.

† These writings are still preserved.

less and forbidding: its soil is a stiff clay, which when exposed to the sun and air becomes extremely hard and steely, and the roads are much on a par with those of Frittenden to which it adjoins northward. The river Beult, one of the principal feeders of the Medway, passes through this parish in a direction nearly east and west, and the whole is well watered by different little streamlets which spread over it. The village,* is placed nearly in the middle of the parish, and is (as Hasted observes) "an unfrequented dull place," and perfectly in character with the general appearance of the neighbourhood.

It appears, that as early as the 47th of Edward III. a survey of the BEULT was made between Headcorn and Yalding. "Robert Belknap, and others, were assigned to view all the banks, &c. betwixt *Hetecone* and *Ealdyng*, as well as between Patyndennes-mell and Elherst, in this county, and to do what should be requisite concerning them according to the law and custom of the realm."

This place is remarkable as having been the first station of the brethren of the order of the Holy Trinity in England; as appears by the following extract.

"Mottenden, or more truly Modenden, is a manor situated in the northern part of this parish, which with the estate belonging to it, called great and little Mottenden, anciently belonged to the family of Rokesle; one of whom, Sir Richard de Rokesle, in the year 1224, anno 9th Henry III. founded a priory on this manor, for Friars of the order of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Trinitarians, being the first house of this order in England. Their rule was that of St. Austin, with some peculiar constitutions. Their habit, a white gown,

* It consists of one wide straggling street of mean houses: the road through it is in no respect superior to the bye ways, being in winter almost impassable for waggons, and even in the summer too rough for any light carriage. To pass from one side of the street to the other, a rough stone causeway is raised, to the great annoyance of horsemen at all seasons.

with a red and blue cross on their breasts; their revenues were divided, one part for their support and maintenance, another to relieve the poor, and a third to redeem such christians as should be taken captives by the infidels. To this priory the founder at the same time gave this manor; and there were from time to time several pardons and indulgencies granted by the succeeding Popes to the benefactors of it, which encreased both its reputation and its revenues.

In the Surrenden library is a deed, which shews the tenor of these pardons and indulgencies, and the benefits arising from them, from the weak superstition of different persons, some of whom appear to have been of no mean rank and consequence; by Brother Richard, minister (by which name the head of this house was called) of this house of Motyden, certified that many of the Roman pontiffs having endowed the co-brethren and co-sisters of his order with many privileges, especially in that they might each chuse for themselves a confessor, who might absolve them from all matters not reserved to the apostolic see, and once in their lives, even from all those likewise concerning which the see itself was of course to be consulted. And as John Dering, Esq. of Surrenden Dering, had taken on himself this fraternity in the manner of a *con-frere*, and become a benefactor to comply with the tenor of the apostolic letters, he associated him in his life, as well as in his death, together with all their friends alive and dead, in all masses and prayers, and suffrages of their religion; which deed is dated under the seal of their confraternity in the year 1495.

In the 38th of Henry III. they procured the grant of a fair to be held yearly at this manor. In the 8th year of King Richard II. the temporalities of this priory were valued at one hundred shillings per annum, and it continued in this state 'till the 27th year of Henry VIII. when an act passing for the suppression of all such religious houses, whose revenues did not amount to the clear yearly value of 200l. and

for giving them to the King, this priory, the yearly revenues of which amounted to no more than 60l. 13s. 0½d. was surrendered, with all its lands and possessions, the principal of which lay in this and other parishes, in this county, and in that of Sussex, to the King's use. At which time it appears that there was a house of friars at Hertford, called Le Trinitye; subordinate to this of Mottenden.*

The manor of Mottenden and the lands belonging to the priory there were part of those given by Henry VIII. to Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex of whom a biographical sketch has been before given,† on whose attainder not long afterwards, they were again seized by the crown, and after his execution, this manor with the scite of the priory and several lands belonging to it, were granted to Anthony Aucher, Gent. of Swinfield. In the time of Charles II. this manor, &c. was in the possession of Sir Charles Sedley, the posthumous son of Sir John Sedley, Bart. of Aylesford, who became noted for his wit and gallantry. He was so much admired and applauded, that he became a kind of oracle among the poets; and no performance was approved or condemned till Sir Charles Sedley had given judgment. His works consist of plays, translations, songs, prologues, epilogues and little occasional pieces. The softness of his verses is characterized by the Duke of Buckingham, who calls them "Sedley's witchcraft;" and the art of insinuating loose principles in neat and decent language is thus ascribed to him by the Earl of Rochester,‡

"Sedley has that prevailing, gentle art
That can with a resistless charm impart
The loosest wishes to the chastest heart;"

* Hasted.

† Vide p. 93. note.

‡ Equally remarkable, for his wit, the dissoluteness of his life, and his exemplary penitence.

Peter Husey, archdeacon of Northampton, by his will in 1499, appointed his body to be buried in the choir of the Holy Trinity convent at Mottenden, where he had made his tomb; and it seems he died in this priory.

Here also was formerly a chantry, founded by John Kent, in the 6th year of Edward IV. and called, after the founder, **KENT'S CHANTRY**. This was suppressed before the 30th of Henry VIII. and the scite and lands belonging to it granted to the Earl of Essex, who soon afterwards exchanged it with the King for other premises. In the 36th year of that reign, the scite of this suppressed chantry, with several lands belonging to it in Headcorn and elsewhere, were granted to Sir Anthony St. Leger, to hold by Knights' service. It is still called the *Chantry Farm*.

Another manor worthy of note, is **SOUTHOLMENDEN**, the name of which is mentioned in a charter of Offa, King of Mercia, dated in 791, by which he gave among other premises *Suthelmington* to Christ-church, in Canterbury.

The other manors in this parish, are those of **RISHFORDS**, **BLECHENDEN**, alias **CRUTTENDEN**, **WISPERHAWKE** and **HAMPDEN**, with the reputed manor of Kilsham.

The church (dedicated to St. **PETER** and **PAUL**,) was founded by one of the family of Colepepper, and the monument and arms of the founder still remain in the south wall of it; the latter are carved, over the west door of the belfry. It was formerly among the possessions of the crown, and remained so until King Henry III. granted the rectory of it, to the **MAISON DIEU**, founded by him at Ospringe, and the advowson to the Archbishop of Canterbury and his successors. The parsonage of the church of Headcorn, together with the manor, was obtained of Henry VIII. by Bishop Fisher, for St. John's College, in Cambridge, and it still remains part of the possessions of the master and fellows of that College. The advow-

son of the vicarage, rests with his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In the church yard which is unusually spacious, stands one of the largest pollard oaks in the county; from its size and form, it is not unworthy the attention of the landscape painter. The heads of three windows in the north aisle, still contain much stained glass.

HEVER, is situated on the western confines of the Weald, midway between Chidingstone and Eden-bridge. The village is small, and though considerably elevated, extremely dirty in the winter season. It possesses little, worthy of notice, if we except its church, a small and homely edifice (dedicated to ST. PETER) but an object of much picturesque importance, as contributing materially to the beauty of the surrounding scenery; the view from the village eastward, is particularly pleasing, and on the whole the situation of Hever is such, as only to require the improvement of its roads, to render it desirable as a place of residence. In the church is a stately tomb of dark coloured marble, in memory of SIR THOMAS BOLEYN, or rather *Bullen*, who died in March, 1538; he is represented by a full sized BRASS, habited in the robes and collar of the order of the Garter, with his head resting on a helmet, and his feet on a wyvern. Here also, are some memorials of the Cobhams, of Sterborough Castle,* in Surry, the ancient Lords of this manor.

HEVER CASTLE, which is situate in the low grounds, eastward of the village, is the only object worthy of particular notice in this parish; and has long claimed the attention of the curious from the many interesting historical facts appertaining to it.

Its situation is far from agreeable; though exactly according

* Sterborough Castle, is in the parish of Edenbridge, and is, or was lately in the possession of Sir Thomas Turtan, Baronet.

with the notions of comfort and security entertained by our ancestors: in their choice of situation, delightful views, or the beauties of home scenery, were, but of secondary consideration, compared with a plentiful supply of water, and a security against sudden attack; this, while it proves the barbarous and uncivilized state of society, in those ages; will also serve as an apology for what might otherwise be deemed the bad taste of our forefathers. It is surrounded by a moat, supplied by the river Eden, and approached originally by a draw-bridge, which has long since been supplanted by a more substantial and ready means of communication. The out-line of the principal front is pleasing, and on the whole this building is a very creditable specimen of the domestic architecture of the fourteenth century, but particularly valuable to the antiquary, as an entire example of the kind of residence of a commoner in those days: the entrance was defended by a portcullis, which still remains.

This manor was the ancient patrimony of the family of Hever, or Hevre, of whom William de Hevre, Sheriff of Kent, in the second of Edward I. possessed a moiety. The castle was erected in the time of Edward III. by William de Hevre, who had liberty by charter from the King, to embattle his mansion at Hever, and free-warren annexed to his lands at that place. William de Hevre died without male issue, leaving only two daughters, the one (Joan) married to Reginald Cobham, of Sterborough, and the other married to Brocas, whence in records it is sometimes called *Hever Cobham* and *Hever Brocas*: the former who had acquired the whole by purchase, afterwards disposed of the entire estate to Sir Geoffrey Boleyn or Bullen, Lord Mayor of London, in the 37th of Henry VI. and by Anne, his wife, (eldest sister of Thomas Lord Hoc and Hastings,) was great grandfather to Anne Boleyn, the hapless Queen of Henry VIII. and mother to Queen Elizabeth.

This place the Boleyn's made their principal residence, and

here the stern and inflexible tyrant, (Henry) awed for a season by the charms of beauty, was wont to pay his court, and where he is said to have spent some of the happiest of his days. According to tradition, it was his custom, on gaining the hill from whence the towers of the castle were visible, to wind his bugle horn, as a notice of his approach; which it is observed, "he could sometimes with difficulty effect on account of the depth and tenacity of the surrounding mire." Extraordinary instances of the influence of passion are too numerous, to render the conduct of Henry on this occasion, either singular or surprising; for whether under the dominion of love, (if this cruel and remorseless wretch could for a moment be thought capable of it) or under the gross influence of appetite; the impulse, must have been great, to have induced his haughty spirit to stoop from the grandeur and pageantry of royalty to the humble forms and inconveniences of common life. Yet this innocent and devoted object of his choice whose virtue he was bound to respect, and whose beauty and accomplishments * might have secured any heart; less corrupted than his own, he could without remorse doom to the scaffold; to gratify the brutal inconstancy of his disposition.

- On the decease of Sir Thomas Boleyn, K. G. Earl of

* This unfortunate Queen is thus described by Lord Herbert, from a relation taken out of a MS. of Master Cavendish, gentleman usher, to Cardinal Wolsey. "Anne Boleyn was descended, on the father's side, from one of the heirs of the Earles of Ormond, and on the mother's from a daughter of the house of Norfolk; of that singular beautie and towardnesse, that her parents took all care possible for her good education. Therefore, besides the ordinary parts of virtuous instructions, wherewith she was liberally brought up, they gave her teachers in playing on musical instruments, singing, and dancing; insomuch that when she composed her hands to play and voice to sing, it was joined with that sweetnesse of countenance that three harmonies concurred. Likewise, when she danced, her rare proportions varied themselves into all the graces that belong either to rest or motion."

Wiltshire and Ormond and father to the unfortunate Anne, this estate became the property of his son George, Viscount Rochford, who "under pretence of some black crimes acted against the majesty of Henry VIII. fell under the censure of high treason," and this estate on his attainder or conviction was escheated to the crown, and by other purchases was considerably enlarged. On the divorce of Anne of Cleves, these lands were settled on her for life, or so long as she should remain in the kingdom, at a yearly rent of 93l. 13s. 3½d. and here she principally resided until her death, which happened in the fifth of Mary, by whom it was granted or sold to Sir Edward Waldegrave, Lord Chamberlain to the Queen's household. On the accession of Elizabeth, it appears that Sir Edward Waldegrave was divested of all his employments, and committed to the tower, where he died in 1561. The manors of *Hever-cobham* and *Hever-brocas*, have since passed through several families to the Medleys of Sussex, and are at present the property of Mrs. Medley of Clapham.

The inner buildings form a quadrangle, inclosing a small paved court; and in the hall, the former scene of festive splendour, is still said to be the identical oak table, at which Henry is reported to have been often seated. The great staircase communicates with various chambers, wainscotted with small oaken pannels, and a long gallery, having a curious ornamented ceiling in stucco. The windows of the staircase display several shields on painted glass, collected from different parts of the castle, charged with the arms and alliances of the Boleyns, &c. A small recess, or apartment, opening from the gallery is said to have been occasionally used by Henry as a council-chamber, though perhaps without any sufficient foundation, as considering the nature of his errand to Hever, it is not probable he would suffer business to break in on his retirement. At the upper end of the gallery is a part of the floor which lifts up, and discovers a narrow and gloomy de-

seent, said to lead as far as the moat and called the *draegon*, but no doubt intended as a place of refuge or a depository for valuables, in times of trouble and commotion.

HORSMONDEN, which in the *Textus Roffensis*, is written *Horsbundinne*, adjoins to Lamberhurst northward, and to Goudhurst on the west.

The diversity of its surface, the underwood, and timber, with which it is ornamented, and the several small streams and rivulets, which meander through it in different directions, render its scenery particularly pleasing. On the north-east and south, it is bounded by two different feeders of the Medway, which join the main river at Yalding; besides these, there are several other lesser rivulets, that unite with the larger stream on the southern side of the parish, called the river Teise. It is generally interspersed with coppice woods, more especially on the north and west sides, where iron ore is found in great abundance. The timber in this parish is remarkably fine, and sometimes as Hasted observes, nearly equals in value the freehold of the estate on which it stands. The surface soil on the higher lands is light, and friable, generally on a substratum of sand stone, and in the valleys and lower grounds, it is for the most part clayey and tenacious, but extremely fertile.

The greatest length of this parish, is about four miles, but its breadth is in some parts not more than one, and in the broadest part, does not exceed two miles. The high road from Maidstone through Yalding to Lamberhurst and Sussex, runs through it nearly in a direction north and south; and that from Watlingbury over Branbridge through Brenchley towards Goudhurst, crosses this parish and the above road, at a small green called Horsmonden-heath, round which a few ordinary houses are built, forming the only village within its boundary; the principal houses being dispersed singly over different parts of it.

The parsonage is near the south-east boundary of the parish,

and about a quarter of a mile distant from the church; the roof of this building is noticed by Harris, who says "It is framed of huge strong compassing or circular timbers, just like the ribs of a ship; and really it looks very much like the hold of a ship inverted." And the same author observes, from the circumstance of the then rector being only the *fifth** in succession from the dissolution of Monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII. that "it is probably a very healthful place, as before I observed Cranbrook in this neighbourhood to have been." Without reference to the ground of this remark, it may be fairly presumed from the general appearance of its inhabitants, and its natural advantages, that the air of this neighbourhood is particularly salubrious, yet something is to be attributed to the avocations of the labouring class, husbandry work being here the only employment of the industrious poor.

The MANOR OF HORSMONDEN was part of the ancient possessions of the archbishopric of Canterbury, the archbishop holding it of the King *in capite* as one Knight's fee, of whom it was again held by the noble family of Clare, Earls of Gloucester and Hertford.† In the reign of King John it was in the possession of the family of Albrincis‡ from whom it

R

* To render this statement correct, John Wickham, who died or resigned this living in 1597, must have held it at least forty-seven years. Of the four who preceded Stephen Bate, one only held it nine years, (Edward Rawson) being ejected by the Bartholomew act in 1662; and of the other two, no proof of their having died possessed of this living has been found. These facts serve to strengthen the supposition of Harris, as stated above.

The Rev. Stephen Bate and his successor (the Rev. William Hassell) held this living upwards of one hundred and six years, viz. from 1619 to 1785; the first, forty-five years, and the latter, sixty-one, dying at the great age of ninety.

† For the customs and services, required by the see of Canterbury of those who held this manor, see the manor of Hadlow.

‡ Probably *Abrincis* and a descendant of Hugh de Abrincis, nephew to the conqueror, to whom he granted the palatinate of Chester.

passed to Hamon de Crevequer, and subsequently to Bertram de Criol, in the reign of Henry III. In the time of King Edward II. it was held by the family of Rokesle of the honor of Clare, from whom, by the marriage of a daughter of Richard de Rokesle it passed to Thomas de Poynings, in which name it continued to Sir Edward Poynings, who in the 12th of Henry VIII. dying without lawful issue, his estates became escheated to the crown; * and in the 30th of the same reign were by the King granted to Stephen Darell, Esq. to hold *in capite*. The manor house, now the residence of Mrs. Marriott, is a mean looking brick building, but delightfully placed in one of the most picturesque and pleasing spots in the county; the grounds about it are apparently extensive and finely wooded, yet still capable of great improvement.

SPELMONDEN is an ancient seat at the southern boundary of this parish, once possessed by a family of the same surname, one of whom John de Spelmonden is frequently mentioned in the deeds and evidences belonging to the estate; on their becoming extinct here, it was annexed to the possessions of the family of Poynings; Thomas de Poynings dying possessed of it in the 43d year of King Edward III. and with his descendants it continued to Sir Edward Poynings, who in the 14th year of Edward IV. alienated it to John Sampson.

LEWIS-HEATH, a manor situated in the centre of the parish, was anciently part of the possessions of the family of Groverherst or Grotherste, one of whom John de Grotherst, rector of this church, gave the manor of Leues-hothe to the abbot and convent of Begeham, to find one perpetual chaplain to celebrate in the church of Horsmonden and chapel of Leues-hothe; and it continued part of the possessions of the said abbey until the dissolution of it.

* This is agreeable to Philipott and Harris, but Hasted gives a very different account, though on what authority does not appear.

The three preceding manors belong to the lady of the late Rev. Dr. Marriott.

THE MANOR OF SPRIVERS lies on the western side of the parish, and anciently had owners of the same surname, one of whom, Robert Sprivers, died possessed of it in 1447, leaving it to his son. When this family became extinct here, the *Fanes* succeeded, and from them it passed into the name of Bathurst. In 1704 it became by purchase the property of Mr. Courthope, whose son Alexander Courthope, Esq. rebuilt the house at some distance from the ancient one, and according to Hasted, afterwards resided in it "with true old English hospitality, and with a reputation of the highest integrity." From the quantities of fine timber, (consisting principally of oak, chesnut and beech) and the imposing appearance of the different avenues, a stranger is led to expect an elegant and suitable mansion; but, the house itself, and the grounds *immediately* about it are sadly defective in taste, and equally removed from consistency: the building though substantial and tolerably extensive, is mean in the extreme, conveying an idea of a private mad-house or an infirmary, rather than the residence of a gentleman.

GROVEHURST, another MANOR lying on the eastern side of the parish, was formerly the property of the Grovehurst's. William Grovehurst died possessed of it in the 7th year of Edward III. when it passed to his descendant, Richard Grovehurst, and in the next reign, by marriage with a daughter of the last mentioned, it came into the possession of Richard Hextall, whose eldest son afterwards increased his property in this parish by the purchase of four estates here, called Hothe, Smeeths, Capell and August-pitts. He left Margaret, his sole daughter and heir, who carried these estates in marriage to William Whetenhall, Esq. whose descendant of the same name was Sheriff in the 18th of Henry VIII. and in the 31th of the same reign he procured his lands to be *disgavelled*.

Henry Whetenhall a descendant of the above in the reign of James I. passed away the manors of Grovehurst, Hoathe, Smeethe and Capel (August-pitts having been before alienated to Mr. John Osborne) together with a seat in this parish called Broadford, situate near the bridge of that name over the river here, to Francis Austen, Esq. and in the name of Austen they still remain.

BADMONDEN is a reputed manor here, in which there was formerly a cell, but not conventual, belonging to the priory of Beaulieu, in Normandy; in which situation it continued till the general suppression of the alien priories throughout England, in the year, 1414. It was afterwards attached to the priory of St. Andrew in Rochester, where it remained until the dissolution of that society in 1540. In the 33d of Henry 6th it was granted by the King to the dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom it continues.

The church lies in a retired situation on the declivity of the hill, southward of the manor house, and close to the grounds, through which it is approached. It is a neat structure, comprising a nave, side aisles and chancel, with a square embattled tower at the west end, and exhibits in several parts, some specimens of good masonry. On the north side of the chancel, within, is a splendid mural monument to the memory of the late rector, the Rev. Dr. Marriott, and near it a neat marble tablet as a memorial of Mrs. Ann Hassell, wife of the Rev. William Hassell, the venerable predecessor of the late incumbent.

HUNTON, in ancient deeds written Huntington and Huntingdune, lies on the south side of the Quarry hills, adjoining to Linton on the west, and wholly within the Weald, the summit of the hill, being at once the boundary of this district, and of the parish of Hunton.

In point of situation and prospect, this parish is so similar to Linton that it is only necessary to refer to what is said on

these subjects under that article, and the rather, as it is proposed to offer below the animated description given of the parsonage, &c.* by the late Dr. J. Beattie, which will convey a very adequate idea of the upper part of Hunton and the general appearance of the country which it over-looks.

* "HUNTON PARSONAGE is delightfully situated about half way down a hill fronting the south, about a mile from Cox-heath. My windows command a prospect extending southward about twelve miles; and from east to west, not less, I suppose than forty. In this whole space I do not see a single speck of ground that is not in the highest degree cultivated; for Cox-heath is not in sight. The lawns in the neighbourhood, the hop grounds, the rich verdure of the trees, and their endless variety, form a scenery so picturesque; and so luxuriant, that it is not easy to fancy any thing finer. Add to this the cottages, churches, and villages, rising here and there among the trees, and scattered over the whole country; clumps of oaks, and other lofty trees, disposed in ten thousand different forms, and some of them visible in the horizon at the distance of more than ten miles; and you will have some idea of the beauty of Hunton. The only thing wanting is the murmur of running water: but we have some ponds, and clear pools, that glimmer through the trees, and have a very pleasing effect. With abundance of shade, we have no damp nor fenny ground; and though the country looks at a distance like one continued grove, the trees do not press upon us; indeed, I do not at present see one that I could wish removed. There is no high road within sight, the hedges that over-hang the highways being very high; so that we see neither travellers nor carriages; and indeed, hardly any thing in motion; which conveys such an idea of peace and quiet, as I think I never was conscious of before." See an account of his 'life and writings' by Sir William Forbes, Bart. vol. II. p. 142.

In another letter speaking of the late Bishop of London, the Right. Hon. Dr. Beilby Porteus, then Bishop of Chester, and who until his translation held this living *in commendam*, he says,

"The Bishop has improved his parsonage and the grounds about it, as much as can be improved, and made it one of the pleasantest spots in England. The whole is bounded by a winding gravel walk, about half a mile in circumference." Again speaking of the bishop and his lady, he has these words; "Their home is the mansion of peace, piety, and cheerfulness."

In the history of this county, contained in the 'Beauties of England and Wales' vol. VIII. p. 1231. is the following passage, "His conduct was an exemplary, his preaching so admirable, and his charity so universal, that he

On the hill the surface soil is a tolerably rich loam, of no considerable depth, and in the bottoms a stiff churlish clay, similar to that, generally found in like situations throughout the Weald: such grounds in favourable seasons and under good management are very productive, but there are perhaps no lands in England, which require greater vigilance, and the exercise of more patience to render them profitable; he who would thrive on them "must not defer until to-morrow, what he can do to-day;" or he will soon find to his cost that "One to-day is worth two to-morrow"* Hasted, speaking of the soil in such situations, observes, "it is very miry in wet weather, whilst in hot and dry weather it becomes a hard cakey or panny surface, which resists every impression; of course the opportunity for the tillage of it, whilst in an intermediate state, must not be neglected, lest the possibility of a season be lost." The enclosures partake of the common objection, they are much too small, and too much incumbered with oak trees; these may be considered among the principal objections to the farms generally in this country; though the greatest is certainly the dreadful state of the bye roads, during the winter months.

About midway down the hill, formerly stood the manor house of Burston,† which in the reign of Elizabeth became the property and residence of Sir Thomas Fane, of the enobled family of that name. On the ruins of this seat a farm house

will long be remembered with peculiar regard at Hunton."

Dr. Porteus was succeeded in this living by the Hon. and Rev. Lord George Murray, D. D. since elected to the See of St. David's. His lordship whilst at Hunton, suggested some improvements in the *Telegraph*, for which a pecuniary remuneration was made him by government. The present incumbent is the Rev. Robert Moore a younger son of the late archbishop.

* Vide 'The Way to Wealth,' by Dr. Franklin.

† Some remains of the manor house of Burston were standing within these two years.

has been erected, and the lands round it which had been *em-parked* as early as the reign of James I. have long since been thrown open and converted to more profitable purposes. A little removed to the eastward, is the parsonage house; and immediately below it, JENNINGS, the charming residence of Lady Twisden, relict of Sir Roger Twisden, Bart.

A junction of the rivers Beult and Teise is effected at the distance of about a mile eastward of the village, the stream then skirting the southern boundary of Hunton, and directing its course westward towards the Medway, enters that river in the adjoining parish of Yalding. The village, called in the neighbourhood HUNTON STREET, lies on the north bank of the river, distant about a quarter of a mile from the church, which is to the west of it: its situation is far from pleasant, lying low, and subject to the annoyance of floods, yet the place is not unhealthy.

"In the year 1683 there was found, at the opening of a piece of ground to enlarge a pond, near Mr. Hatley's house in this parish, at six yards deep, a hard floor or stratum, composed of shells, or petrefactions like them, crowded closely together, the interstices of which were filled up with marle. This layer was about an inch deep, and several yards over. These shells were of the sort called *conchites*, and resembled sea-fish of the testaceous kind; most of them were turbinated or wreathed, the rest were of the bivalvular sort; none of them with their valves closed together, but single. This *stratum*, when exposed to the air and grown hard, appeared much like the coarse sort of marble, composed of such shell-like petrefactions, with marle mixed between them, as is dug up about Bethersden, Pluckley, &c. in the Weald of Kent, and about Petworth in Sussex. Upon enquiry, no instance was known of the river Medway's having, in any floods, reached so far as this place." Philo. Trans. vol. XIV. No. 155. p. 463.

The Manor of Hunton was in early times among the possessions of Christ church, in Canterbury, of which, it was held by Nicholas de Lenham, in the reign of Henry III. who in the 41st of that King, obtained a grant of *free-warren*, a weekly market on Tuesdays, and a yearly fair of five days, viz. the vigil, the day of the assumption of our lady, and the three succeeding days. By marriage with the daughter and heiress of William de Lenham in the time of Edward III. the manor of Hunton with that of Benstede became the property of John de Gifford, who appears to have paid aid for them in the 20th year of that monarch, on whose death two years afterwards, these manors were by his heirs, alienated to John de Clinton, afterwards raised to the peerage, by the title of Earl of Huntingdon. In his descendants this manor and estate continued until the reign of Henry VIII. when by Edward Lord Clinton they were alienated to Sir Thomas Wyatt; by the rebellion of whose son, they afterwards became forfeited to the crown. Queen Mary granted them to her attorney general, Sir John Baker; since which time they have been separated; the former belongs to Thomas Turner, Esq. who resides on it, and Benstede is become the property of Sir William Geary, Bart. who has a considerable estate in this parish.

In the church are some memorials of the Fanes, one an altar tomb to the memory of Col. Sir Thomas Fane, surmounted by his bust in white marble, and opposite to it, another splendid monument to others of the same family. Over the altar is a transparent painting of faith, hope and charity, the gift of Lord George Murray, and on a slab in the aisle some brasses, but without inscriptions. Opposite the altar is a gallery belonging

On the south side of the altar is a canopied recess, intended probably as a depository of the 'holy water' below the cavity where the water was placed, is a cylindrical shaft, through which a perforation communicating with the basin has been made, but for what purpose, can only now be conjectured.

to Lady Twisden, erected by the late Duchess of St. Albans.

In the register are the following notices of *great storms*. "1746. On midsummer day this year, happened the greatest storm of thunder and lightning, wind and rain, that was ever known in the memory of man." "1763. On the nineteenth day of August this year, happened a much greater storm of thunder, wind, hail and rain, than that in the year 1746; the hail stones being six and seven inches round."*

S

* The latter storm, has been thus described by the Rev. Mark Noble, rector of Barming, from notes made by an intelligent person, who was one of the sufferers.

'On Friday August 19th, 1763, a storm arose at sea, off the Sussex coast. The morning was still, with scarcely a breeze of air; and so excessively hot, that it was suffocating. About ten o'clock in the forenoon, a black cloud arose towards the west; soon after which the wind blew an hurricane: the clouds came on with amazing velocity, throwing out in their course dreadful flashes of lightning; and the thunder was almost one continued roar. About half past eleven, the rain poured in torrents, and in a few minutes was intermixed with some detached hail stones, which were very large, as introductory of what were to follow: the hail, wind, lightning and thunder, soon came on so furiously, that all was one dreadful scene of horror. The boughs, branches and leaves of trees, broken and stript off, flying in the wind, still more darkened the air; the tiles and windows rattling and dashing to pieces; trees torn up, and falling, struck all with a terror not easily to be expressed; some running distractedly about, wringing their hands, whilst others stood like inanimate beings. The storm lasted about half an hour. What a scene ensued! An universal desolation every where presented itself: some, their houses filled with water; others, with their barns, blown down; roofs and walls shattered; the windows quite destroyed: the waters roaring in torrents down the streets, ploughing up the stones in their course, and leaving deep chasms; the surface of the earth covered with the prodigious hail-stones and water; corn, fruit and hops destroyed; the fields and hop-gardens every where disfigured; trenches formed by the rushing water; the roots of the hops bared, and the poles thrown down in all directions; heaps of stones and sand driven through the hedges; boughs and branches scattered; the fruit trees stripped of their bark. The smaller animals, such as hares, pheas-



KENARDINGTON, sometimes written *Kenarton*, lies five miles south-westward from Tenterden, and on the eastern

sants and other game, lay dead in the fields; and a large hog was killed by the hail upon Barming heath. The larger quadrupeds endowed with superior instinct, saw their danger; horses, bullocks and sheep, ran, and sheltered themselves from the coming storm. In Maidstone on one side of the high street, not only the glass, but the lead and frames of the windows, were forced in and destroyed, particularly by the hail. It was like fragments of ice, and of very irregular shapes; at Barming one piece was taken up formed like an oyster; Sir Philip Boteler, measured and found it nine inches round at the extremity: and even ten days after, some hailstones were taken up four inches and a half in circumference. One of the largest, struck the stile of an horizontal post-dial of brass, and bent it nearly thirty degrees towards the east. Posts, bars and gates, had deep impressions from them. They were of different shapes; some flat, irregular and very much jagged; others an assemblage of pieces of ice, whilst a few were globular, with a small cavity in the centre; and if they were held together, they immediately froze, and were not easily separated.

'The storm commenced in this county at Tunbridge Wells, whilst the people were at prayers in the chapel, and passed quite across to Sheerness, a distance of forty miles, its breadth not exceeding four miles: the direction of it was from south-west by west, to north-east by east: and it was severely felt in the parishes of Tunbridge, Speldhurst, Penshurst, Tudely, Capel, Pembury, part of Hadlow, Yalding, Hunton, Branchley, Mereworth, East and West Peckham, Watlingbury, Nettlestead, East Malling, Teston, East and West Farleigh, Barming, Loose, Maidstone, Boxley and Debtling; after which its violence was spent, and only little injury was occasioned. Numbers came from all parts to witness the melancholy scene. The inhabitants of the vicinity humanely raised 3000*l.* in a few months, which in some measure relieved the unhappy sufferers: but the cruel effects long remained: most of the hop hills died; the filbert and apple trees swelled in knots where they had been bruised: and some were so injured, that the branches and shoots long after continued to die; the cherry trees bore it the best, owing, perhaps, to the strength of their outward bark.' *History of London and its environs*, Kent p. 314.

confines of the WEALD; the church of Kenardington marking the boundary in this quarter; that part of the parish westward of the church, being considered within this district, and that to the eastward, within the boundary of Romney marsh.

The village and church are rather pleasantly situated on the upland, and indeed the whole of that part within the Weald is preferable in point of appearance to several other places before mentioned, but on account of its proximity to the Marsh it must be objectionable on the score of health. In the western and northern parts of the parish, are considerable tracts of woodland, but it does not abound with timber. Below the hill on which the church stands and on the south east, are the remains of some ancient fortifications of earth, with a breast-work thrown up, and a small circular mount; and in an adjoining marsh below it, is another of a larger size.

These are supposed (by Hasted) to have been thrown up during the wars between King Alfred and the Danes, perhaps about the year 893, when a division of them sailed up the river Limene, or Rother, and entrenched themselves in the adjoining parish of Appledore.*

The manor of Horne, alias Kenardington, was part of those lands assigned for the defence of Dover Castle, to John de

S 2

* This supposition appears to have originated with the celebrated Dr. Plott, author of the histories of Oxfordshire and Staffordshire, and who it seems had it in contemplation to write a history of this county; indeed this is the only plausible conclusion that can be made with respect to these entrenchments.

"In the year above mentioned, (893) Hastings the famous Danish chief, having ravaged all the provinces of France, both along the sea coast and the Loire and Seine, and being obliged to quit that country, more by the desolation which he himself had occasioned, than by the resistance of the inhabitants, appeared off the coast of Kent, with a fleet of three hundred sail. The greater part of the enemy disembarked in the Rother, and seized the fort of Appledore." Hume's England.

Fienes, who was constable of that important fortress, and together made up his barony, called *the constabularie*, and held by him *in capite by barony*, by the service of maintaining a certain number of soldiers for the defence of that castle, and of him and his heirs this manor was held *in capite* by castle-guard service from time to time. In the reign of King John it was so held by William de Normania; and his grandson Thomas de Normania, or Normanville, died possessed of it in the 11th year of King Edward I. and afterwards in the 21st year of that prince, the jury presented before the Justices itinerant, that the late Thomas de Normanville held this manor of the King *in capite*, by the service of 10s. per annum, towards the guard of Dover Castle; that the manor was worth forty marcs per annum, and was then held by John de Lovetot, to whom the King had granted the wardship† of Norman-

† The *wardship of heirs*, during the feudal times, was a considerable branch of the royal power and revenue, and from the enormous exactions of the crown on such occasions it is evident, the primary idea, that feudal property was but a kind of *fee* or *benefice* was not lost. In the reign of Henry III. Simeon de Mountfort paid 10,000 mares for the wardship of Gilbert de Umfreville, and Geoffrey de Mandeville paid to the same prince the sum of 20,000 marcs, that he might marry Isabel, Countess of Gloucester; which says *Hume* would be equivalent to 300,000, perhaps 400,000l. in our time. When a baron died, the King immediately took possession of the estates, and the heir before he recovered his right, was obliged to make application to the crown, and desire he might be admitted to do homage for his land, and pay a composition to the King. This composition was not at first fixed by law, at least by practice; the King was often exorbitant in his demands, and kept possession of the land till they were complied with. If the heir were a minor, the King retained the whole profit of the estate during his minority; and might grant what sum he thought proper for the education and maintenance of the young baron.

If the heir were a female, the King was entitled to offer her any husband of her rank he thought proper; and if she refused him, she forfeited her land. Even a male heir could not marry without the royal consent; and it was usual for men to pay large sums for the liberty of making their own choice in marriage.

ville's daughter, and the rents of his estate till she came of age or married. By the marriage of this daughter (Margaret) of Thomas de Normanville with Sir William de Basing,* this manor together with the advowson of the church passed to the latter, and in this name and family it continued to Sir John Basing, who died in the 24th year of Henry VI. when it passed to Thomas Mackworth, Esq. of Derbyshire *jure uxoris*. To this family succeeded those of WISE and HORN; and by an heiress of the latter name, it was carried in marriage to Richard Guldeford, Gent. son of Sir John Guldeford, of Hemsted, by his second wife, who in her right became possessed of them, but being indicted for not taking the oath of supremacy to the Queen, (Elizabeth) they fled the realm and were attainted of treason, and their lands became forfeited to the crown, their attainder among others, being confirmed by act of parliament. The Queen about the year 1597, granted the fee of this manor and advowson to Walter Moyle, Gent. from whom the present owners are descended.

There is a fee farm of forty pounds per annum, payable out of this manor. It is *one of the lordships of Romney marsh*, which entitles the owner to sit as one of the lords there, for the management of the walls and the sewers within it.

The church (dedicated to ST. MARY) consisted originally of a nave and side aisles, but only the south aisle, chancel, and tower are now remaining.

KINGSNORTH, sometimes called *Kingsnode*, and by Leland, written *Kingesnode*, lies south-westward of SEVINGTON, and is a parish so obscurely situated, and so little known, as to be wholly omitted in some of the county maps.† The

* The place called *Basinghall*, in London, owes its name to the *Basings* above mentioned. Some of which families have been Sheriffs and Lord Mayors of London before they came to settle at this place. (Harris).

† It is not to be found in the map to the first edition of Boys's agricultural survey of the county.

northern boundary of the Weald, passes the church on the hill, in a direction east and west, dividing the parish into nearly two equal parts, that to the southward, consequently lying within this district. The general face of the country is unpleasing, the roads bad, and the objects of art, so few and uninteresting, that it is by no means surprising, this place should be so little known or frequented. HASTED describes the roads as *execrably bad*; "insomuch (says he) that they are dangerous to pass, except in the driest time of the summer," and it must be confessed, that even at this time, the picture he has drawn does not appear much overcharged. The soil principally is a deep tenacious clay, and of course for the greater part of the year wet and miry, it is interspersed with coppice woods, more especially towards the south east, and contains a considerable quantity of oak timber. There is no village, the houses standing singly, consisting mostly of those attached to the different farms, and here and there an occasional dwelling for the laborers in husbandry. Eastward of the church, is the *Park House*, or manor-house of Kingsnorth, but the ancient mansion, the scite of which is moated round, stood at some distance from the present building, and appears to have been of considerable extent, large quantities of stone having at different times been dug up here, and according to HASTED, the remains of a mosaic pavement have been discovered.* Close to the western boundary of the parish, is the manor house of WEST HALKS, probably of some consequence in former times, as a causeway wide enough for a carriage, led from hence through the court lodge farm towards Shadoxhurst, Woodchurch, and so on to Halden; remains of which are often turned up in ploughing the grounds. In the low lands near the meadows, is the scite of the manor buildings of Moorhouse, moated round.†

* On what authority this is asserted by Hasted does not appear. Its truth is very questionable.

† The above mansions seem to have been moated round, not only for

A small streamlet, rises in the woods near Bromley-green, and flows along the eastern part of this parish, in a direction northward, joining the postling branch of the Stour, near Sevington. LELAND in his itinerary says, vol. VII. p. 145. "That river of Cantorbury now cawled Sture, springeth at King's Snode, the which standeth southe and a lytle be west fro Cantorbury, and ys distant of Cant. a xiiii or xv myles." But this is evidently an error of Leland's, the above being merely a small tributary stream to the Stour.

The manor of Wye claims paramount over this parish. The lord of that manor, George Finch Hatton, Esq. holds a court-leet here for the borough of East-Kingsnorth, which claims over this parish, and at this court a borsholder is yearly appointed; *subordinate* to this is THE MANOR OF KINGSNORTH, which in early times was the residence of a family of the same name; of whom John de Kingsnorth resided here towards the latter end of the reign of Edward I. On the attainder of Bartholemew de Badlesmore about the 17th year of Edward II. he appears to have possessed that part of this estate, since called THE MANOR OF EAST-KINGSNORTH, for on his conviction, this portion escheated to the crown and remained there until Richard II. granted it to Sir Robert Belknap the Judge, who not long previous had purchased that part of the manor of Kingsnorth which belonged to the family of that name. On his attainder and banishment in the 11th year of the same reign, the former part again reverted to the crown, but that which had been purchased of the family of Kingsnorth (the greatest part, and since called THE MANOR OF KINGSNORTH) was on the petition of Hamon de Belknap (his son) to parliament restored to him, and in his possession it continued untill his death in the 7th year of Henry VI. After his death it

defence, but to drain off the water from the miry soil on which they were built, which was no doubt the principal reason why so many of the antient ones, in this and the like situations were moated round. Hasted.

came into the possession of Sir Thomas Brown of Beechworth Castle, treasurer to the King's household, who in the 27th year of that reign, obtained licence for a fair* in this parish, on the feast of St. Michael, and grants to embattle his mansion here, to enclose a park, and for *free-warren* in all his demesne lands within this manor. In 1690 Alexander Andrews executor and devisee of William Andrews, conveyed this manor with the farm called the Park, the manor of Moorhouse, and other lands in this parish, (being enabled so to do by act of parliament) to the company of haberdashers of London, as trustees, for the support of the hospital at Hoxton, called Aske's hospital, in whom they are now vested.

The other part, since called the MANOR OF EAST KINGSNORTH, appears to have been granted, together with the manors of West Kingsnorth, in Pluckley; Moorhouse, in this parish; and Wathenden, in Biddenden, to the abbot and convent of Battle in Sussex, with whom they remained until the dissolution of that abbey, in the 30th year of Henry VIII. In the same year they were granted to Sir Edward Ringsley for his life, and the reversion of them, was four years afterwards, sold by the King to Sir John Baker, to hold *in capite* by Knight's service. In his descendants, this manor and the advowson of the church continued down to Sir John Baker, Bart. in the reign of Charles I.

THE MANOR OF MONTFORT'S,† or as it is now called *Mumfords*, was once the property of the family of le Clere, of whom, Henry le Clere died possessed of this manor, in the

* A material alteration must have taken place since Philipott's time, as he mentions a *town* here, whereas it is now difficult to find a *village*. He says, (speaking of the manor of Kingsnorth,) "Henry VI. in the 27th year of his reign, granted some part of it to Sir Thomas Brown of Beechworth castle, in Surry, and with it a charter to enclose a park, which had liberty of *free-warren* annexed to it; and likewise, the more to endear him, licenced *this town* to hold a fair yearly on Michaelmas day."

† This in Harris and Philipott is written *Munfiddle*.

reign of Edward I. and leaving no issue male, it was carried in marriage by Susan his only daughter to Sir Simon de Woodchurch, whose descendants afterwards assumed the name of Clerke.

WEST HALKS,* commonly and perhaps most properly called *West Hawks*, is a manor situated near the western bounds of this parish, and subordinate to that of Kenardington; it was formerly the property and residence of a family of that name, and according to Philipott was, "a family of no contemptible estimate, or shallow antiquity in this track, as appears by old escripts, pedigrees, and other venerable muniments, which represent this family under the character of gentlemen, for above three hundred years."

The church (dedicated to St. MICHAEL) is small, consisting of one aisle and one chancel. At the west end, it has a square tower steeple containing five bells. In the aisle is an ancient grave-stone, coffin shaped, with old french capitals round it, now illegible, and against the north wall the tomb of Humphrey Clarke, Esq. of Bethersden marble, with the effigies of himself and wife in brass, and below, of his four sons and five daughters; above is an inscription to his memory, set up by his daughter's son, Sir Martin Culpeper. In the chancel is a brass with an inscription, but without date, for Thomas Umfrey, rector.† The north chancel, which belonged to the manor of Mumfords, fell down some years ago and has not since been rebuilt; in it were interred the Wightwicks, owners of that manor; their grave-stones nine in number yet remain, and on

T

* This is the name ascribed to it by Philipott, Harris and Hasted, though from the arms of the family (*a fess, between three Hawks*) the latter appears the more proper appellation.

† Probably the immediate predecessor of Thomas Dunscome, A. M. who was inducted in 1592.

one adjoining to these, and also formerly within the north chancel, is the figure of a Knight in armour, with a lion under his feet, and an inscription on brass for Sir William Parker, son of William Parker, Esq. citizen and mercer of London, 1421.

The advowson of this rectory was annexed to the manor of East-Kingsnorth in the reign of Henry VIII. (as before observed) and has so continued to the present time; the right of presentation therefore to the living rests with the owner of that manor. There are about seventeen acres of glebe land attached to it, and in 1640 the whole was valued at only 50*l*. No tythe of woodland below the hill southward is taken, this part of the parish being considered within the Weald.

I.

LAMBERHURST,* probably from the saxon words *Lam* and *hurst*, in reference to its soil, and situation; the former signifying a soft loam or clay, and the latter a wood.

The greater portion of this parish, lies in the adjoining county of Sussex, the two counties being here separated by one of the principal tributary streams to the Medway, which rising in Waterdown forest, crosses this parish in a direction nearly east and west. The Kentish part, or that which lies on the north of the stream is about two miles across in extent, and agreeably diversified with alternate hill and dale; the surface

* In the Textus Roffensis it is written *Lamberherste*, and Phillipott derives it from a Saxon of the name of *Lambert*, formerly owner of this place; but this supposition is not admitted by succeeding writers. Harris says, "I find it written *Lambberste* often in the reign of King Edward I. which allowing for the usual intermixture of the *b* in such pronunciations by the vulgar, will make the very word *Lam-herst*." Harris's opinion on this point is adopted by Hasted.

soil near the village is light and sandy, lying on a rock of sand-stone, and the remainder consists principally of a stiff tenacious clay. It contains large tracks of coppice wood, interspersed with oak and other forest trees; but these have been much reduced of late years, owing to the great increase in the price of timber, and the unusual demand for oak of the larger size in particular, for the purposes of ship building. The woods in this and some of the neighbouring parishes abound generally with iron ore, and until within these few years, furnaces for melting and manufacturing the ore, have been in use here; the last of these, was that known by the name of the Lamberhurst or Gloucester furnace, the latter name having been given to it, on occasion of a visit made here, by the Duke of Gloucester (son of Queen Anne) in the year 1698. At this furnace great quantities of cannon, as well for the use of government, as the merchants, have been cast, besides backs for stoves, &c. bar-iron has also been worked here, and it is worthy of note, that the iron railing which encompasses St. Paul's cathedral was cast at this place: according to the furnace books, this railing with the gates (seven in number) weighed two hundred tons and eighty one pounds, and cost the sum of 11,202l. 0s. 6d. This furnace, though much business was at times done at it, was never a very profitable one, and latterly, must from the increase in the price of timber have yielded little or no advantage to the proprietors. When this undertaking was commenced, the average price of oak timber did not exceed 20s. per ton, and that extensive competition which the system of canal navigation has fortunately introduced was then unknown and unthought of. The first project of this kind in England was that of rendering the SANKER brook or river, navigable from the Mersey, up its three branches, in the year 1755, a period of nearly sixty years subsequent to the establishment of the above concern, and to this source, united

with the increased value of timber, may be attributed, the total abandonment of every scheme of this nature, in this part of the kingdom.*

The village or town of Lamberhurst, as it is now generally called, is about forty miles from London, on the high road from thence to Hastings and Rye. The houses are built on the sides of this road, and in the lower part of the town a bridge† of three arches is thrown across the stream, standing partly in Kent and partly in Sussex. The only house of any consideration in the town is that on the western side of the street, near the bridge, formerly in the possession of a family of Thomas, which has lately undergone some considerable repairs, but which the antiquary will not see without some regret. Just above the town, on the north, the two principal roads in this neighbourhood meet at the turnpike-gate, the one from London through Tunbridge, and the other from Maidstone through Yalding, &c. and on the left, descending to the town, is the parsonage, which though not reducible to any particular style of architecture, will not fail to please, by the air of comfort which characterizes it.

A fair is held here on old lady-day for cattle, &c. the profits of which belong to the owners of the parsonage, and another fair is held on the 21th of May.

Lamberhurst was anciently part of the possessions of the family of Crevequer, and a limb of their barony of Leeds in this county; one part of it was held of them by the family of Lenham; one of whom Nicholas de Lenham, obtained a charter of *free warren* for his lands here in the reign of King

* For further observations on this subject, see the general account of the Weald.

† The stream which divides the two counties in this part is called the *Beule* by *Hasted*; but quere, should it not be the *Telse*? The *Beule* or *Beult* river (properly so called) not approaching this place within eight or nine miles.

Henry III. The other part, in which the manor was included, was held of the Crevequers, as half a Knight's fee, in the reign of King John, by Nicholas de Kenith, *nomine dotis*, who gave it to the abbot and convent of Robertsbridge in Sussex. Hamo de Crevequer, grandson of Robert, confirmed this gift of the manor of Lamberhurst, &c. for which the abbot had paid him thirty five marcs of silver, of the goods of his church.*

In the 21st of King Edward I. upon a *quo-warranto*, the abbot and convent claimed *view of frank-pledge*, and other liberties, to their manor here, against the King, who laid claim to it. But the abbot producing the King's charter, his claim was allowed before J. de Berewicke and others, justices itinerant, and in the 8th year of King Edward II. the archbishop had a grant for a market and a fair in this parish.

On the suppression of the abbey of Robertsbridge, in the reign of Henry VIII. this manor came into the King's hands, who soon afterwards granted it with the abbey and the rest of its possessions to Sir William Sydney and his wife, to hold *in capite* by Knight's service, all which he afterwards surrendered up. In consideration of this surrender, and a sum of money paid upon a new agreement, the King in his 33d year, sold to Sir William Sydney and his heirs, the manor of Lamberhurst, together with all its lands and possessions, to hold the same by the suit of one whole Knight's fee, and the annual rent of 26l. 12s. 4d. In the 5th of James I. new letters patent were obtained of this manor, to hold it of the King as of his manor of East-Greenwich, in *free socage tenure*, by fealty only in lieu of all other rents and services, and in the 3d of Charles I. a confirmation of free-warren was obtained, within all the da-

* Soon after the abbot's coming into possession of this manor, there arose great disputes between him and the archbishop concerning it, which were finally settled, anno 1266, 51st of King Henry III.

meane lands of this manor, not being within the bounds of the King's forests.

There is a court leet and court baron held regularly for this manor.

The house attached to it, is that called COURT-LODGE, the property and residence of William Alexander Moreland, Esq. The present edifice was erected in the time of James I. but has since undergone some material alterations; its situation is naturally good, and with little exercise of taste, the grounds about it would be rendered truly delightful; the building itself though comparatively large, is yet wanting in consequence, and on the whole there are few places in this neighbourhood where nature has done more, or art less.

The MANOR or *reputed* MANOR of Hodleigh, lies on the western side of this parish, and was anciently attached to the college of St. Peter, at Lingfield, in Surry, suppressed in the reign of Henry VIII. and which in the 38th year of that reign was granted to Thomas Cawarden among other premises belonging to the college, to hold *in capite* by Knight's service.

In this parish, but in the county of Sussex, is SCOTNEY CASTLE, and manor, the residence and property of Edward Hussey, Esq. This estate formerly belonged to a family of the same name, one of whom Walter de Scoteni, held it in the reign of Henry III. and was a person of no small account, for he held fourteen Knight's fees and a half of Alice, Countess of Swo, in Sussex; but being found guilty of poisoning Richard Earl of Gloucester, and his brother, William de Clars, he was drawn through Winchester to the gallows, and hanged. Two good views of this still interesting building may be seen in *Amsinck's account of Tunbridge Wells and its neighbourhood*.

Another place of still greater note, but also beyond the limits of the present work, is Bayham, or Begham abbey, of which mention has been made in the preceding sheets; part of the demesne lands of the abbey are within this parish, but the build-

ing itself lies wholly within the county of Sussex, being on the southern side of the Teise and at the distance of about two miles westward of Lamberhurst. Bayham is the favorite resort of the fashionables, at Tunbridge-Wells, during the summer and autumn months, for independent of the attractions of Bayham itself, the road to it from the Wells, is the most pleasing and romantic in the county. This immense estate, with the recent additions to it, is said to encompass an area of seven and twenty miles in circumference. It is the property of the Marquis Camden.

The church (dedicated to St. MARY) stands a little removed from the COURT-LODGE, and seen from any point is a pleasing object, it has a tower and spire, which contribute much to heighten the interest of the scenery in this neighbourhood, and though it has to boast of no particular claims to architectural beauty, it will not be seen without pleasure by the artist, or passed without some notice by the most indifferent.* In the porch of it lies the body of one Lindridge, who lived in a house adjacent, and who made a stone causeway here, which has been called after him. The advowson of this living was given by Robert de Crevequer to the prior and convent of Leeds about the year 1137, but the vicarage of this church was not endowed until about the year 1448. After the general dissolution of monasteries the appropriation and advowson of the vicarage were by King Henry VIII. in his 33d year, settled on the dean and chapter of Rochester, where they both remain.

LEIGH, adjoins eastward to Penshurst, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, is written LEAGA, which in saxon signifies *feeding or pasture*.

* An interesting view of Lamberhurst church, etched by Miss Byrne, is given in the work above mentioned.

This village situated on the turnpike road from Sevenoaks to Penshurst, and near the thirtieth mile stone, contains but little worthy of remark; the place is small and the houses generally mean and straggling; add to this, the church, which in most places is found to contribute something to their consequence, is here more mean and contemptible than the buildings near it; this *humble structure* is placed on the north-west side of the street, and but a little removed from the high road. From its situation, it is rather surprising this place should not be more respectable; it has the advantage of one good road at least: the country around is pleasing, and the greater part of the parish lies higher than most that adjoin it; from which circumstance and the more friable texture of its soil, it is much drier. The highest parts are towards the north, but the village itself lies on the southern side of the parish, through which quarter the main branch of the Medway winds its course towards Tunbridge; it is also watered by a small stream which flows from the sand hills on the north. At a small distance from the church is HALL PLACE,* and about half a mile westward of the village, NORTH PARK, the property of Richard Allnut, Esq. which formerly constituted part of the park of Penshurst.† Between Leigh-Green and Hall-place, there is much coppice wood, as there is in the northern part of the parish, called Westwood, near Halls and Fletchers-green.

THE MANOR OF LEIGH, alias WEST LEIGH had always the same owners with the adjoining manor of Penshurst; and together with that manor is now by virtue of the will of Mrs.

* Situated within the large district called Hallenden, which stretches two miles and a half north-eastward, the extremity of which, though now separated from this part of it, by the parish of Tunbridge intervening, yet by the best accounts has ever been supposed to be within the parish of Leigh. (Hasted).

† For an account of *South Park*, which also constituted part of the demesne lands of PENSURST-PLACE, see under that article.

Elizabeth Parry, who died in 1783, become the property of her eldest grandson John Shelley Sydney, Esq. But a moiety of the manor of Yeansfield, alias Ensfield, with other property in this parish, formerly belonging to the Sydney family, was by Anne, widow of Sir William Yonge, Baronet, and her son Sir George Yonge, Baronet, of Escot, alienated to Richard Allnutt, Esq, whose grandson of the same name is the present proprietor. This property consists of the messuage of Easfield, with three hundred acres of land, and other premises.

Near the river Medway, and in the eastern part of the parish, is an ancient mansion called RAMHURST: the estate on which it is placed being once reputed a manor, and held of the Honour of Gloucester.

That part of the manor of HOLLENDEN, on which is situated HALL-PLACE, and which is now generally known by the latter name, was conveyed in the reign of Henry VIII. to William Waller, from whom it descended to his son, Richard Waller. The manorial rights of it, have been since claimed by the name of the manor of Lyghe Hollenden, by Robert Burges, Esq. who rebuilt this seat, and died possessed of it in 1794; by the re-marriage of his widow with James Harbroc, Esq. he is become the owner of it.

Of the remainder of HOLLENDEN it is difficult to offer any satisfactory statement, on account of the numerous changes and sub-divisions, which this property has experienced.

The church (dedicated to ST. MARY) is a small building without a steeple, and in short without any external recommendation whatever; in the windows are remains of painted glass which at some remote period, it may be presumed, have been ornamental, but now too mutilated to add much to its consequence. In the chancel are three brasses, which have been taken from their original situations and are now

nailed to the floor of a pew, on the north side; two of them have inscriptions in black letter, one for Thomas Chann, Esq. obt. 1407; the second for John Stace, of Moreden, eldest son of John Stace of Hollenden, obt. 1590; the third is the effigy of a female in her shroud, lying in a tomb, and on the upper part she is represented as rising from it; the inscription is lost. There are also several other brasses and memorials, principally for the former owners of Hollenden, and in a small circular compartment in the east window of the chancel, are the arms of the Sydneys, Earls of Leicester.

By virtue of the commission of enquiry in 1660, it was returned, that in Leigh there was a parsonage distinct from the vicarage, the parsonage being inappropriate; belonged to the Earl of Leicester; that the vicarage was presentative; that the parsonage, with the tythes thereto belonging, was worth 70*l.* per annum, and the vicarage house and one acre and a half of ground, and the tythes thereto belonging, were worth 50*l.* per annum; that the Earl of Leicester was proprietor of the parsonage, and master Robert Antrobus then vicar.

Sir John Canewce, patron of the church of Leigh, Richard Canewce, rector, and Aland de Ros, vicar of it, granted to Sir Thomas de Penshurst and his heirs, with the consent of Benedict, Bishop of Rochester, a free chapel for ever within his manor of Penshurst, yet within the bounds of this parish, to be served by its own proper chaplain, the said Thomas and his heirs, paying yearly two pounds of wax to the church of Leigh, as an acknowledgement of the rights of the mother church; and the said Sir Thomas Penshurst for himself and his heirs, at the same time granted to the said church, all the tenths of his fisheries belonging to the pool of his mill of Penshurst, or in any other fisheries, which should be erected by him or his heirs in the said parish; and that the church of Leigh as the mother church, should have all oblations yearly accruing from the mansion of Penshurst, on the four principal annual feasts, but that the rest of the oblations of the said

mansion should remain to the said chapel. This chapel was dedicated to **ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**, and **ST. THOMAS THE MARTYR**. In 1249 Richard de Wendover, Bishop of Rochester granted an indulgence of forty days remission from penance to all such, who on the anniversary of the dedication of this chapel, should offer up their prayers at the altars of those saints, by him consecrated there; and the like at the altar below, consecrated by him in honour of the blessed Confessors, St. Edward and St. Nicolas, and the like indulgence on the feasts of those saints for ever.

Stephen de Penshurst a descendant of the above, in the 11th year of King Edward I. for the health of his soul, and those of Roger and Margerie his wives, &c. confirmed the former grants to this chapel and added many more, among which were the following privileges to the chaplain and his successors, viz. the free grinding of his and their corn in the mill of his manor of Penshurst, without payment of toll, and free pasture for four cows, two sows and six hogs, in common with those of him and his heirs, in the pasture of the manor of Penshurst for ever, and that the swine should be free from the payment of pannage between the feasts of St. Michael and St. Martin.

To this chapel a chantry was added in the year 1219 for the convenience and accommodation of the parishioners of Leigh dwelling in the hamlet of Betburgh.

This chapel was suppressed in the reign of Edward VI. at which time its revenues were valued by the King's commissioners at 6l. 5s. per annum.*

U 2

* This single fact will serve to shew the great rise in the value of landed property within the last three hundred years, and the great increase also in the quantity, and consequent diminution in the value of the money now in circulation. Beside the privileges above enumerated, this CHAPEL possessed at the time of its dissolution, upwards of two hundred and thirty one acres of land.

LINTON, anciently written LYLLYNGTON, and in Latin, *Lilintuna*, lies on the northern confines of the Weald about three miles and a half southward of Maidstone; the high road from which place to Cranbrook and Tenterden, &c. passes through the village.

Few places in the county are more pleasantly and it may be added more comfortably situated than the little village of Linton; placed on the southern declivity of a hill commanding delightful prospects over a richly wooded and highly pleasing country, and sheltered on the north and east by more elevated ground, and the plantations of Linton-place, it has to boast a peculiarity of situation truly enviable. It is however much to be regretted that the appearance of the place itself bears no analogy to the situation, the houses in general are mean and irregular, the best parts of it engrossed for the purposes of the meanest trades, or enumbered with the abodes of poverty and apparent wretchedness.

The boundary of the Weald in this part, crosses the summit of the hill above the village in a direction nearly east and west, separating it from the plain of COXHEATH, a small part of which, though beyond the limits of the Weald, is comprehended within the parish of Linton. This elevated and cheer-

(in several lots), together with the necessary appurtenances. The value of which according to the above return does not average 6½d. per acre per annum. But according to the present state of things these same lands are now worth at the least 30s. per acre yearly rent, and if we take for granted, and as just, the recent calculations on the comparative value of money now, and in the above reign, it will appear, that while the circulating medium has increased in the proportion of twelve or thirteen to one, (*in quantity*), landed property has also obtained an advance in *value* in the ratio of fifty-five to one, or in other words, *land* is now of more than four times the value it was in the reign of Edward VI. (that is, admitting the above premises to be just), and taking into the account the comparative value of money in those times and the present.

ful tract* has been the scene of several encampments, the first of which in 1778 consisted of 15,000 men, but for which numerous body there appears to have been ample scope; since that time other encampments have been formed here, though not so extensive as the former. This heath is about three miles in length and in some parts more than a mile in breadth, it is esteemed particularly healthy, the soil is naturally dry, and water of the purest kind, is here readily obtained in the greatest abundance; to which advantages may be added its central situation, from which on any emergency the troops may be removed with peculiar facility either to the metropolis or the coast.

The approach to the WEALD from Maidstone through the romantic village of Loose, over Coxheath is extremely pleasing, and to a stranger the burst of this interesting country, presented to him on attaining the summit of the hill above Linton, must, if he has any feeling, excite strong emotions of surprize and pleasure; no anticipation of so extensive a view can be entertained, from the enclosed country he has just passed, the transition is sudden and abrupt, and his emotions must be so likewise.

The surface soil on the hill, is a rich loam on a bed of Kentish rag-stone, but in the low lands southward of the village, the soil becomes more stiff and clayey, though equally productive. At the distance of about a mile in this direction, the main road crosses the river Beult, at a place called Stile-bridge, † and just beyond, branches off in two directions, the

* On Coxheath is found the plant called LUNARIA, or small Moonwort, for a description of which, see Hill's Family Herbal and Dr. Parkin's edit. of Culpepper, under the article *Moonwort*. This plant is very scarce and equally valuable.

† The bridge at this place, Mr. Sutherland the Engineer, in his report to the committee on the first projected canal through the Weald of Kent, very properly termed a *stone embankment*. Those who have witnessed the

one leading to Cranbrook and Tenterden, and the other to Marden.

On the east side of the village is LINTON PLACE, † now the seat of the *Munns*, and previously of the *Withens* and *Maneys*. The present building erected about the middle of the last century, by the grandfather of the present Sir H. Mann, Baronet, is a substantial and respectable edifice, well arranged for domestic comfort, and commanding extensive views over the Weald. To use the language of BROWN, "this place possesses great *capabilities*," its aspect is unexceptionable, and its natural advantages many, but without some assistance from art, these advantages of situation are in a great measure done away: in these grounds it must be admitted some trifling improvements have within the last few years been made, but there still remains much to be done.

Robert Mann, Esq. grandfather of the present Baronet realized a large fortune, principally by advantageous contracts for army clothing, during the administration of Sir Robert Walpole, with whom he appears to have lived in habits of particular intimacy. His second son, uncle of the present Sir Horatio Mann, Baronet, and of the same name, was envoy extraordinary to the court of Tuscany, for the period of forty-six years, dying at Florence in November, 1786, and whose remains were in the following year, brought to England for interment, and with great pomp deposited in Linton church.

frequent floods in this neighbourhood, must be aware that much of the evil arises from the want of sufficient *water-way* at this place; to obviate this the present ill-contrived structure should be wholly removed, and a single arch thrown across, of *at least* seventy feet span.

† This was formerly called *Capell's-court*, from its owners in early times, one of whom John de Capella held it in the reign of King Henry III. together with lands in Boxley, as appears by the charter of *insuperimus*, granted by that King to the abbey there.

In this parish were formerly some lands belonging to a family of the name of Welldish, who had a chapel in this church named after them ; and who according to tradition were descended from those of the same name in the time of the Conqueror, to whom one of them is said to have been *hunter*, and to perpetuate this circumstance, the family bore for their arms, *Argent, three talbots passant azure on a chief, or, a fox passant gules*. These lands were annexed to those of Linton-place as early as the reign of Charles II.

Just above the village, and on the west side of the road, is the residence of the late Mr. Bowles, who for many years held the situation of steward to Sir Horatio Mann; the house is scarcely seen from the road, being shut in by shrubberies on the north and east sides, (its elevated and naturally exposed situation having rendered such an expedient necessary) but its advantages may very well be conceived by the passing traveller. At the lower end of the village and on the same side of the road, is an old fashioned, but respectable looking farm house, with an extensive court before it, and a well situated garden on the south side; the whole being admirably sheltered from the cutting winds, and yet sufficiently elevated to command some delightful prospects over the country southward.

The church (dedicated to St. NICHOLAS) is on the east side of the road through the village, and though neither large or elegant, is not altogether destitute of interest; its steeple and spire form an agreeable feature in the foreground of the view from the hill, and at every point from which it can be seen must be considered advantageous to the scenery of the neighbourhood. Among the monuments within the church, is one, said to have been designed by the late Lord Orford, of various coloured marble, inclosing an arched recess, with an urn, and inscribed as follows :

GALFREDO MANN

Amicissimo optimo

Qui obiit Dec. XX. M, DCCLVI.

Ætatis Suae L.

Horatius Walpole.

The patronage of this church, was part of the ancient possessions of the crown, until about the year 1314, when it was appropriated to the use and support of the college or hospital for poor travellers, in the west borough of Maidstone, founded by Archbishop Boniface, in the reign of Henry III. In the 19th of Richard II. it was alienated to the collegiate church of Maidstone, with which it remained until its dissolution in the 1st of Edward VI. anno 1546; when with that church, the advowson and vicarage of Linton, were surrendered to the crown, of which, in the time of Elizabeth, they were held by grant by Alexander Grygsby, Gent. and in this name they continued in 1640. Soon after the year 1728, they were purchased by Robert Mann, Esq. of Linton-place, since which they have passed with that seat to the present owner.

In the 8th year of Richard II. the church of Linton was valued at 5l. 6s. 8d. per annum. In the year 1640 at 30l. and in the year 1751, the clear yearly certified value of it was 61l. 7s. 8d.

M.

MARDEN, in ancient records written *Merdenne* or as Dr. Harris has it *Mereden*, i. e. the larger *denn*, lies on the road from Maidstone to Goudhurst, from the former of which, the *town* of MARDEN (as it is usually called) is distant about seven miles and a half. It is situated nearly in the centre of the parish and principally on the sides of the turnpike road, which here making an acute angle and the houses being continued some little distance down the road to Marden-thorn,

three irregular streets are formed, until lately possessing but few attractions, but now greatly improved by the WASTON family, whose recent alterations have contributed much to the respectability of the place. At the east end of the town is Jewel house the residence of Stephen Hooker, Esq. and on the left of the road to Stile-bridge, the parsonage. On the right at the western extremity is a newly erected meeting-house (of independents) to which the late rector (the Rev. J. Andrews L. L. B.) was a principal contributor—a singular instance of clerical liberality !!

The parish of Marden is bounded on the north by the Beulz and on the west by the river Teise which unite about a mile westward of Stile-bridge; the stream then skirts the southern boundary of the parishes of Linton and Hunton, and falls into the Medway at Yalding, near the town. From its situation with respect to these two rivers, and the few inequalities of its surface, much of this parish is subject to hasty floods, yet lying generally above the level of the land in the immediate vicinity of the Medway, the inundations to which it is subject, are of no long continuance, and may be considered rather beneficial (at least to the landed proprietor or his tenant) than otherwise, nor indeed can this circumstance be offered as a reasonable objection on the score of health, but may with more propriety be advanced as an argument in *favour* of its salubrity. Perhaps the greatest objection to this neighbourhood is the very indifferent state of its roads; which (excepting *only* the high road through the town from Maidstone to Goudhurst); are execrably bad; the main road for the most part pursues the highest land, but is not sufficiently elevated to command very extensive views, the prospect northward being bounded by the quarry hills, and limited in other directions by the abundance of thriving oak-timber and the ridge of high land southward, in the parishes of Cranbrook and Goudhurst. On

approaching the village of Goudhurst (the beautiful situation of which has been noticed under that article) the country becomes more pleasing; and on attaining the summit of Winchet-hill* a fine view of this district northward presents itself, inferior however in beauty to those which strike the eye on the south and south-west, after passing the turnpike-gate: these latter, though not more extensive, are more agreeably diversified with the principal essentials of scenic beauty; the objects of art are not numerous, or abstractedly, of much interest, but most happily placed and harmoniously blended with the whole. In the front, the eye is carried over the valley to the rising ground in the parish of Horsmonden, on which, surrounded by thriving timber, stands **HORSMONDEN HOUSE** the seat of Mrs. Marriott (relict of the late Rev. Dr. Marriott): in the valley to the right, is **BROADFORD HOUSE**, and on the left, proudly seated on an eminence, the village of Goudhurst; while the more distant prospect is embellished with the picturesque tower and spire of Lamberhurst church.

"A fair is held here yearly on October 10th, for toys and pedlary, the profits of which the portreeve of the hundred of Milton receives of ancient custom, which officer executed: within this hundred, the office of clerk of the market in all points, whilst the market was held, but it has been dis-used: time out of mind"†

* *Winchet-hill* was the original seat in this county of the family of Roberts of Glasenbury. The first of whom William Rookherst, a native of Scotland, afterwards assumed the name of Roberts, and in the 3d year of Henry I. having purchased lands at Winchet-hill, erected a house there to which he gave the name of *Rookherst*. This mansion continued the residence of the family until the reign of Richard II. when by the marriage of Stephen Roberts alias Rookherst with Joan, daughter and heir of William Tille of Glasenbury; the former, *jure uxoris*, became entitled to the seat of Glasenbury, whither he removed.

† Hasted's History, vol. VII. p. 53.

THE MANOR AND HUNDRED OF MARDEN was in very early times part of the royal possessions, being attached to the MANOR AND HUNDRED OF MILTON, the fee of which was vested in the crown, and so continued until the reign of Charles I. when it was granted to Sir Edward Brown and Christopher Favell, *in fee*; and with that manor and hundred, this of Marden has continued appendant to the present time; although repeated petitions and applications to the crown appear to have been made to separate it from that of Milton, and render it independent. These Manors formed part of the jointure of Queen Eleanor, consort to Edward I. who afterwards obtained the grant of a market and fair to be held at *Mereden*. On her death in 1291, the MANORS of MILTON and MARDEN were again taken possession of by the King.

THE MANOR AND HOUSE OF CHEVENY was in the time of Edward II. held *in capite* of that monarch by Henry del Chevene, who died in the 2d year of that reign: from this name and family it was alienated early in the reign of Richard II. at which time they appear to have been held by William At-Weld in whose descendants they continued to the beginning of the reign of Henry VI. when by sale they passed to William Couper, and becoming in the succeeding reign the joint property of two brothers of that name, as coheirs in gavelkind, a partition of the estate ensued: that part (since called GREAT CHEVENY to which the MANOR is attached) was passed away to *Lone*, one of whose descendants, previous to the restoration of Charles II. and during the commonwealth, alienated it to Thomas Twisden, Esq. sergeant-at-law, afterwards Knighted, made one of the judges of the King's-bench and subsequently created a Baronet. He seated himself at Bradbours, and in his descendants this estate continued till lately. It is now the property of T. L. Hodges, Esq.

But CHEVENY-HOUSE and that part of the estate since cal-

led LITTLE CHEVENY was soon after the partition alienated to a branch of the Mapleden's, from whom it passed to Alexander Courthope, Esq. of Horsmonden, who dying intestate and unmarried in 1779, Cheveney-house with the rest of his estates came to his nephew and heir-at-law John Cole, Esq. of SERRIVENS in the same parish, and the latter dying also unmarried, this estate by virtue of his will, became the property of Stephen Walter, Esq. the present resident. This mansion is on the left of the road from Winchet-hill to the town; the building itself is irregular and the grounds about it disposed without much regard to taste, but the situation is pleasant.

The church, which is situated on the north side of the principal street within a spacious cemetery, was given by Richard de Lucy, Chief Justice of England, to the abbey at LINNUS, 'in pure and perpetual alms,' and with that abbey it remained until its dissolution, when by Henry VIII. the appropriation and the advowson of the vicarage, (which had been endowed by Archbishop Stratford) were granted to Cardinal Wolsey, towards the support and erection of Cardinal's College, Oxford. On his disgrace in 1529, they were again taken possession of by the crown, and soon afterwards appropriated to the support of the Carthusian Monastery of Shene in Surry, where they remained but a short time; falling, with the rest of the possessions of that monastery, once more into the hands of the crown. In the 3d of Elizabeth, the church of Marden appropriated, then valued at fifteen pounds (being the reserved rent by the lessee of it) was, with several other rectories and parsonages made over to the see of Canterbury (where they have since remained) in lieu of several manors and lands, &c. which the Queen had taken into her hands belonging to that see. The church is a mean and inelegant structure and though carrying with it no marks of great antiquity is evidently verging fast to decay; the walls are composed of stone in irregular courses and for the most part covered with plaister, which

cracking and peeling off, gives it a very ragged and shabby appearance; at the west end is an uncouth dwarf tower, the upper part framed and weather boarded, and covered with a shingle roof, meeting at a point in the centre, and surmounted with a weather-vane, which appears very insufficient to support the swing of six bells, notwithstanding the assistance that has been given to it by the buttress on the south side. The interior is divided into a nave, side aisle and chancel, and contained originally a small chapel, dedicated to St. JOHN THE BAPTIST. *Hasted* says, "In 1763 this church, was beautified by subscription, at the expence of 96l. 3s. 9d." but no traces of embellishment or of its having been beautified are now perceptible: the pews are wretchedly mean and the altar-screen is of the most homely kind. On the north side of the chancel is a splendid monument to the memory of John Cole, Esq. of Sprivers, (erected by his desire), and at the east end of the south aisle, a plain mural tablet of statuary marble, in memory of Mary, wife of John Andrews, L. L. B. The cap of the pillar adjoining the font, (on which is the date 1662) has been originally much ornamented, but which is now little observable, owing to repeated white-washings, and the *uncourteous* attacks of TIME.

A small estate in this parish, formerly belonging to Motten-den priory, claims an exemption of tythes.

MEREWORTH. The situation of the village of Mere-worth, or as it is usually called *Merrud*,* differs little from that of Watlingbury, from which it is distant about two miles, in the direction of Tunbridge; the place is very inconsiderable and has to boast but few tolerable dwellings. The chief object of attraction in this parish, is MEREWORTH HOUSE, the seat of Lord le Despencer, begun about the year 1737, by John,

* In the *Tactus Boissensis*, it is called MERDURTEA, and MERANWERTHE; in Domesday Marourde.

seventh Earl of Westmoreland, under the direction of Collin Campbell, from a design of Palladio.* It is erected on the scite of the old mansion, at the distance of about a quarter of a mile southward of the turnpike road, standing on an easy ascent, and backed by extensive woods, through which some pleasant avenues and other ornamental improvements were made by the last Earl. In the low ground, in front of the house, is a large sheet of water formed by the stream, which rising near Yokes-place flows through the park, and following the course of the valley, unites with the Medway at Bow-bridge. Few private buildings have been more panegyrised than MEREWORTH HOUSE, and yet it may be fairly asserted, that but few of equal magnitude, have more meagre claims to applause. Whether the design is considered abstractedly, or with reference to its situation, it is equally indifferent and objectionable; it is costly without elegance; extensive and yet inconvenient. Towards the beauty of this place, NATURE has done much, ART but little; the following advice by Pope, in his epistle to the Earl of Burlington has here been overlooked; he says,

"Begin with *sense*, of every art the soul,"

Then, adds,

"Parts answering parts shall slide into a whole,

"Spontaneous beauties all around advance,

"Start even from difficulty, strike from chance;

"Nature shall join you; time shall make it grow

"A work to wonder at - - - perhaps a *Snow*."

The situation of the house, is by no means happily chosen, nor is the kind of building suited to the humid atmosphere of England; on the whole, this place affords a striking proof,

* This design may be seen in the 13th plate of Ware's Palladio. It was built by the latter for Paolo Almerico, near Vicenzor in a delightful situation, on a small hill, watered on one side by the Bacchiglione, and on the other encompassed by rising woods and vineyards.

that something more than expence, and *classic taste*, are requisite to form an agreeable and consistent composition. The house contains a small collection of paintings, among which are several family portraits.* At the time of the Domesday survey, Mereworth (Marourde) was among the possessions of Hamo de Crevequer, sheriff of Kent, (Vice-comes), which office he held until his death in the reign of Henry I. In the reign of Henry II. it was held as two knight's fees, of the Earls of Clare by a family who assumed the surname of Mereworth, and in whose possession it continued, until late in the reign of Edward III. a period of more than two centuries; by one of these, Roger de Mereworth a grant of free-warren was obtained in the reign of Edward I. and license to hold an annual fair within the manor, on the day of St. Lawrence. From this family it passed through those of Malmain, Brembre, Hermenstorp, Fitz-alan, Beauchamp, Neville, Fane and Dashwood, to Sir Thomas Stapleton, Bart. of Grays, in Oxfordshire, who succeeded to the title of Lord le Despencer, in the year 1788, at whose death the estate and title devolved to his eldest son, the present possessor.

Towards the western extremity of the parish is the delightfully situated residence of Mrs. Master, called **YOKES-PLACE**, the site of which, in the reign of Henry III. was held of the Earl of Gloucester, as the third of a Knight's fee, by Fulco de Sharstede: it is a respectable brick building, principally erected in the year 1771, by William Daniel Master, Esq. who also considerably altered and improved the grounds. The views from the house, which lies on the southern slope of the quarry-hill, are extensive and pleasing. There are two other good estates in this parish, **FOWKES**, which is esteemed a manor, belonging to Sir Charles Style, Baronet; and **BARONS PLACE**, the property of David Papillon, Esq.

* A catalogue of these is given in Sprange's Tunbridge-Wells guide.

The parochial church formerly occupied the scite of the present stabling of Mereworth House, but from this *once* retired and appropriate situation it was removed by the desecrating influence of vanity; during the dominion of *classic rage* and tasteless extravagance. The situation now allotted it, strictly accords with the spirit of its removal, and the taste of its projectors; obtruded on the public way and without a solitary tree near, to veil its *peerless* beauties, it boldly and confidently challenges the applause and admiration of the passing traveller, while its gaudy spire serves as a land mark, to guide the curious to this region of *TASTE* and lordly magnificence. To enter into its merits as a design, would be needless; suffice it to observe, that it is misplaced, utterly unsuited to its situation and ill calculated to further the sacred and important purposes for which it was professedly intended. The style of architecture adopted in this structure is the *tuscan** and not the *corinthian*, as Hasted states, from which it will be found to differ, as widely as the *well dressed* gentleman from the *clown*. At the west end is a semicircular vestibule or porch with columns of this order, and within the building are two rows of *doric* columns, dividing the area into a nave and side aisles: the spire is not unlike that of St. Martin's in the fields, London. This fabric was begun in 1744, and consecrated by the Bishop of Rochester in the year 1746. On the alteration of the feast day of the dedication of the church of Mereworth in the year 1439, the Bishop of Rochester, as an encouragement to the parishioners and others to observe the alteration, granted to those who did, *forty days remission of their sins*!!!

* According to the example given by Vitruvius. Its principal characteristic is simplicity; the shaft does not diminish from the base, but begins to contract curvilinearly about one third up, thus giving to it a gouty and unsightly appearance; the cornice projects two diameters, supported by mutules at the distance of one diameter apart.



NETTLESTED, was at the time of the survey of Domesday, among the possessions of the Bishop of Baieux, on whose disgrace this manor, with those of Hylth and Pimpe, became confiscated. In the reign of Edward I. they were held of the CLARES, Earls of Gloucester, (chief lords of the fee) by Richard de Pimpe, and in that name they continued until the 18th of Henry VII. when Sir Thomas Scott, of Scotts-hall became possessed of them. They were afterwards purchased by Sir Philip Boteler, Baronet, together with Pimpe's Court in East Farleigh, and are now the property of Lord Barham. Some considerable repairs and alterations were made to the *Place-house* by Sir John Scott, probably about the year 1587, that date appearing on a part of the building, evidently of more recent erection than the rest. A part of this once splendid residence, is converted into an oast for drying hops, and the residence of a labourer, while what else remains of it, serves but as a melancholy memento of its former consequence.

The MANOR OF LOMEWOOD, was settled on the priory of black canons, at Tunbridge, by one of the Earls of Gloucester, but falling to the crown by the dissolution of that establishment, it was granted to Cardinal Wolsey, towards the endowment of his college, with which it remained but a short time, for on the disgrace of that prelate, it was again seized by the crown, and shortly after given to Sir Edward Neville.

The parish of Nettledsted, is bounded on the east by the Medway, and southward by the parish of Watlingbury, and though generally low, is not only rich in soil but in scenery. On the east of the village stands the CHURCH, a small building (dedicated to St. MARY,) containing some memorials of the Scotts, and in the windows a considerable quantity of

stained glass.* This rectory is held with the chapel of Barmingjett, the latter having been annexed to it by Edmund Bishop of Rochester, (anno 1486.) From the church-yard, a good view is obtained of Sir John Shaw's house, seated under shelter of the hill, between the churches of Yalding and Nettledsted, and of the country in the direction of Pembury.

The learned Sir Roger Twisden who lived in the reigns of King James and Charles I. in his discourse on the Weald, says, that in the time of the Lady Golding, who hired the tithes of this parish, Nettledsted was held to be in the Weald, and she denied the tithes of wood accordingly; yet the rector of it affirmed then to Sir Roger, that all who had wood in the parish, paid tithe of it at that time to him, excepting himself.

NEWENDEN. On the rising ground north of the Rother, which divides this county from Sussex, at the distance of about three miles southward of Rolvenden, stands the little village of NEWENDEN, consisting of a few scattered cottages near the church, and on the left of the road to LOSENHAM HOUSE, the seat of Samuel Bishop, Esq. and formerly of a younger branch of the *Auchers*; by an heiress of which family it was carried in marriage to the Colepepers of Bedgebury. On this MANOR a PRIORY for carmelite friars,† was founded by Sir Thomas Fitz-Aucher, in the 26th of Henry III. (anno 1241) be-

* The nave is lighted on each side by three elegant obtuse pointed windows, and between these externally, are canopied buttresses reaching to the eaves of the building.

† 'William Strawfield, S. T. P. a native of Kent, who became prior of this house, and was buried here in 1390, wrote a history of this monastery, and is said to have been particularly versed in the history of his Order.'

Stev. Dug. Mon. vol. II. p. 167.

According to Kilburne a castle stood near the scite of the priory, which was destroyed by the Danes in 892. In his time no traces of it were to be discovered, but the memory of it had been preserved, by a place here still called the *castle toll*.

ing the year after the first settlement of that order in England. The PRIORY, which stood but a little removed from the manor house of Losenham, was suppressed in the 27th of Henry VIII. and with all its possessions surrendered to the crown. LOSENHAM, is situated about half a mile north-eastward of the church, and is considerably elevated, standing on the ridge of high land which runs through the parish from east to west, shelving on the south towards the Rother, which bounds the parish on this side, and on the north declining into the valley between this place and Rolvenden. The appearance of the surrounding country, so far from being '*forlorn and dreary*' as Hasted asserts, wears a cheerful and animating aspect; the lawn-like surface of the fore-ground, gently flowing into the marshes below, bespotted with sheep and occasionally enlivened by the passing barges on the river, affords an animating spectacle; while the back-ground of the view is closed by the rising woodlands in the opposite parishes, studded with cottages and seats, and enriched with the picturesque spires of Beckley and Northiam churches. The views northward are no less pleasing; indeed to what ever quarter the eye is directed, there is something to please and to gratify it. The house (built in 1666) has undergone considerable alterations within these few years, insomuch that at this time it carries with it no external marks of antiquity; part of the moat which formerly surrounded it, is still remaining on the south side.*

The manor of Newenden, (with other lands) was granted by Offa, King of Mercia, to the abbey of Christ-Church, Canterbury (by the name of *Andred*) for the feed of their hogs, *ad pascua porcorum*. In the time of Edward the Confessor, it

Y 2

* "Many foundations have been dug up southward of the house, and a few years ago a stone coffin was dug up, composed of four flat stones, perforated with several holes to let the moisture through." *Hasted*.

was accounted part of the demesnes of the Archbishop of Canterbury, to which see it was attached until the reign of Henry VIII. when by Archbishop Cranmer, this Manor, with other premises, was exchanged with that monarch, and remained with the crown, to the death of Charles I. soon after which, the manor was sold to Hugh Peters, who held it till the restoration, when it again reverted to the crown. It was afterwards granted to the Earl of Aylesford, whose descendant Heneage Finch, Earl of Aylesford, conveyed it, together with the fishery belonging to it, (which extends on the river Rother from New-barn, at the eastern extremity of this parish, to Odisarne-oak, about a mile beyond Bodiam westward) by sale in 1760, to Mr. Samuel Bishop, of Losenham.

About a quarter of a mile eastward of the village and near the river, is a strong chalybeate Spring: which says *Hasted*, "with oaken leaves put into it, turned blackish; and with powder of galls, it sparkled and turned like Champaigne wine."

Two spots are still pointed out in this parish, which are said to mark the scite of the Roman STATION and CITY called by Pancirollus *Anderids* and *Anderidos*, by the Britons *Caer Andred*, and afterwards by the Saxons *Andred* or *Andred-ceaster*. The one called *Castle Tolt*, lies about a mile and a quarter east north-east from the village of Newenden, on a point of land between Haydon sewer and the river Rother; it is a raised plot comprising about eighteen or twenty acres, on the east side of which are the remains of a deep ditch and bank which seem to have gone quite round it. And near it on the north-east, is a piece of land, raised much higher than the former, round which appears to have been a double ditch, enclosing an area of about five or six acres.*

* "When Dr. Plot visited this place in the year 1693, he saith in some MSS papers of his, which I have the favor to peruse, that they were

The scite of the ancient ANDERIDA* has given rise to a variety of conjectures and ingenious surmises, but the greater body of argument is certainly in favour of this place: among the principal opposers of this conclusion are Mr. Somner and Archbishop Usher, but opposed to them, are Camden, Henry of Huntingdon, Selden, Lambards and Drs. Plott and Harris,

then very lofty; and he was informed by an ancient and sober countryman, who had often ploughed upon this hill, that both the *mounts* or *tumuli*, and the *valla* were then at least four feet lower, than when he first knew the place; and therefore no wonder if I found them *much lower* yet, when I visited this place." Dr. Harris, history of Kent, p. 215.

* When Constantine new modelled his empire for its better government he divided it into four large prefectures, viz. Italy, Gaul, the East, and Illyria including fourteen great provinces; Britain one of these was made subject to the *prefectus pretorio* or prefect of Gaul, and was governed by a vicar or deputy stiled *spectabilis*. Previous to this arrangement, Britain was divided into two provinces only, but Constantine divided it into three; the first called *Britannia prima* contained those parts south of the Thames; *Britannia secunda*, the country west of the severn to the Irish sea, now called Wales, and the third distinguished by the name of *Maxima Caesariensis* contained all the rest of the country lying northward of the Thames and eastward of the Severn. Under the prefect of Gaul were certain consular deputies and presidents who with other inferior officers had the management of all civil and criminal matters. Beside which there were subordinate to him in Britain at that time, three different courts under the direction of three principal officers, namely the *Comes Britanniarum* or Count of Britain; the *Dux Britanniarum* or the Duke of Britain, and the *Comes Littoris Saxonici* or Count of the Saxon shore, under whose government was ANDERIDA, at which place, a detachment of Roman Soldiery was placed, to protect this part of the coast against the piratical inroads of the Saxons.

In the year 490 it appears that ANDERIDA was besieged, taken and totally destroyed by Ælla King of Sussex and Cissa his son, who on that occasion put to death every inhabitant of the place, and razed the walls of the city to the ground: "and if afterwards" says Dr. Harris, "the castle might have been repaired or newly built here; it was probably destroyed by the Danes in the year 893, when they ravaged the country hereabouts." The destruction of ANDERIDA by ÆLLA and CISSA is perhaps the strongest argument against Mr. Somner's supposition, that can be brought against it.

whose opinions, have been almost invariably adopted by subsequent writers. By some it has been placed at *Reding-hill*, others have sought for it at *Hastings*, while Mr. Somner has taken much pains and exhibited an imposing but futile display of antiquarian knowledge, to establish it at *Pevensay*. Dr. Harris says "I think it appears plainly by the charter of King Offa, mentioned by *Twine*, p. 102* that *Andred* was in *Kent*." If this conclusion of the Doctor's is correct, and there can hardly be the shadow of a reason opposed to it, there needs no other argument against the hypothesis of Mr. Somner, or of those who would place it at *Hastings*; as these places are not in *Kent*, but in *Sussex*. The distance of *Newenden* from the sea, appears the most formidable objection with Mr. Somner, though he admits the probability of the sea having reached within six or seven miles of this place; that it did once flow up as high as *Newenden*, no one can consider as improbable, who has the least knowledge of the country; Dr. Harris says, "we have very good reason to believe the sea did once flow up to this place," presuming principally on the following passages from *Gildas* and *Twine*, the former of whom places "*Andreds Chester, in Littore Oceani ad Meridiem*;" and the latter (*de Rebus Albionicis* p. 31) "saith, that *ROMNEY MARSH* was once *Pelagus et Mare Velivolum*. The same author farther observes, that *tradition* hath always fixed *Anderida* here; that *Henry of Huntingdon* saith, this place used to be shewed as *such*, to passengers; that it is situated in the wood *Andred*, or the *Wild*; that the whole hundred bears the name of *Selbrittenden*:" and "that probably this town had the name of *Newenden* from its being built *anew* near the place of the old one."[†]

* *De Rebus Albionicis*.

† This place according to *LAMBARDE* was called by the Saxons *Nifethene* which he translates 'the low or deep valley.' In Latin it was written *Nectis*

The Saxon FONT in this church, is perhaps the greatest piece of antiquity within the Weald.



ORLESTONE. The parish of Orlestone, is partly within this district and partly within the limits of Romney marsh, lying principally on the ridge of clay hills, which bound that rich and extensive tract on the north. The CHURCH and COURT LODGE are seated on the upland, but there is no village, the few houses contained in the parish standing insulate and dispersed throughout it.* The soil is for the most part a stiff clay, and the bye-roads such as may reasonably be anticipated on such a soil, and where but little pains are taken with them; but the high road through this parish into Romney marsh is very good, and much used, being one of the principal thoroughfares into the marsh. At Ham Street which lies on this road at the foot of the hill below the church, is a very tolerable house of entertainment; the approach to this little hamlet is pleasing, and the country generally between this place and Aldington, highly picturesque. The military canal runs just below Ham Street, and has been productive of considerable advantage already to this neighbourhood. On the article of coal, a saving of 16 or 18s. per chaldron, has accru-

dum, supposed (by Leland) to be derived from the Saxon *Nisandunc* (the new hill). "But," says Hasted "it most probably took its name from its being raised on the scite of some more ancient town, perhaps built in the time of the Romans, of whom there are many vestigia in and about this place." (History of Kent, vol. VII. p. 164).

* If we except a part of HAM STREET, which lies at the foot of the hill southward, about a mile from Orlestone church, standing on the boundary of the parishes of Orlestone and Warehorne, and partly in each.

ed, and sea-beach for the roads is obtained here at the moderate price of 2s. 4½d. per ton.

The woodlands in this parish, form the most considerable part of it, and may in a great measure account for its comparative healthiness, when opposed to those, alike situated with respect to the marsh, but containing less timber and under-wood; these it is well known materially tend to purify the atmosphere and check the destructive effects of marsh miasmata.*

Soon after the Norman conquest, the MANOR OF ORLESTONE, or as it is written in the record of Domesday, *Orlavestone*, was among the possessions of Hugo de Montfort, on the voluntary exile of whose grandson Robert, it escheated to the crown. (temp. Henry I.) It was afterwards in the possession of a family who assumed the same surname, one of whom appears on the list of those Kentish gentlemen that attended RICHARD I. at the siege of Acon, in Palestine; whose son of the same name, (William de Orlanston) held it in the reign of Henry III. and obtained of that monarch the grant of *free warren*, a weekly market, and a fair yearly for three days, viz. on holyrood day, and two days after. It appears to have been held *in capite* by Knights service, subject to *suit* to the ward of Dover castle, being part of the barony, called the constabularie. The advowson of the church of Orlestone, has been attached to the manor from very early times.

The church of Orlestone though extremely small, appears sufficiently large for the accommodation of the inhabitants; it

* For some ingenious experiments and observations on the atmosphere of marshes (by Adam Seybert, M. D.) see the transactions of the American philosophical Society, and the Repertory of Arts, &c. vol. XVI. p. 52. to 57. and 93. to 106. Among those who have written, or been practically engaged in an examination of the chemical qualities of atmospheric air, the following stand foremost, namely Franklin, Scheele, Priestley, Ingenhousz, Lavoisier, &c. The work by Ingenhousz is entitled "*expériences sur les végétaux.*"

is dedicated to St. MARY, and consists of a nave and chancel, with a diminutive steeple at the west end, in which are contained three bells. Its situation is on the summit of the hill north of Ham Street, and a little removed eastward of the road from Snavo to Kingsnorth.

THE ISLE OF OXNEY.

In old records written *Oxene*, *Oxeneel*, and in the record of Domesday *Oxenai*, includes within its boundary the parishes of Stone, Wittersham, and part of Eboney. It lies at the south-west extremity of the county next to Sussex, being divided from the latter and the uplands of Kent (on the west and north-west) by the river Rother, and otherwise circumscribed by a small stream called the *Breake*.*

LELAND, in his *Itinerary*, vol. 7. p. 139, remarks as follows: "yet parte of Oxney ys in Kent and part in Southsax, sum say that yt is or hath bene al in Southsax. Sum caulle yt Forsworen Kent, by cause that were the inhabitants of yt were

Z

* So late as the year 1509, the tide of the sea flowed up to Small-hythe on the north side of the Island, and to this place the river Rother at that time appears to have been navigable, (see Dr. Willis's two letters in the *Philosophical Trans.* vol. XXII. No. 275 and 276). "but" as Hasted observes "for want of a sufficient force of fresh water to repel and clear this channel of the earth and mud, which the tide from time to time lodged in 'it, the whole of it along the north side of the Island was so swerved up, that in the year 1736 it was found necessary, for the discharge of the waters of the Rother, which then, for want of it, overflowed the adjoining marsh-lands, to make a new channel through Wittersham level, for the passage of them, whereby the course of the river, for the space of five miles or more, became inverted, and instead of running from Maytham to Small-hythe and Reding eastward, on the north side, now runs from thence to Maytham westward, and thence into the new channel above-mentioned, along the southern side of this island, into the Appledore channel, and so on to the Sea at Rye."

of Southsax they revolted to have the privileges of Kent."*

THE ISLE OF OXNEY is in length (from east to west) nearly five miles and a half, and its greatest width is about two miles and three quarters. Hasted states the circumference at near ten miles, but it measures nearly fourteen.† The approach to the island formerly was by three ferries, namely at Small-hythe, Appledore, and towards Maytham; but the streams, which now flow round it, are so inconsiderable, that three small wooden bridges at these places, answer every purpose of communication. A ridge of comparatively elevated ground occupies the centre, crossing the island in a direction nearly east and west, on either side of which are tracts of rich and productive marsh-land: some few patches of underwood are scattered on the uplands, but the island is barren of timber. In some seasons of the year, and when the marshes are covered with stock, the prospects around are pleasing, especially to a stranger who has travelled through the more enclosed country to the westward, yet the ISLE OF OXNEY will seldom be selected as a place of residence by those who have the freedom of choice. DRAYTON in his *Poly-albion*, (song 18th) describes the island (which he personifies) as *gross, black and homely*, but at length makes her say of herself,

"Though I be brows, in me there doth no favour lack."

overlooking the *trifling defects* of bad water, and an impure atmosphere!

* The conclusion of LELAND and the *hearsay* alluded to above, uncorroborated by other evidence, are alone insufficient to establish the fact of this island or any part of it, having at any distant period, formed part of the county of Sussex; the Rother even in its present state, is a strong presumptive proof to the contrary, it completely embraces the island on the south and appears a natural, and reasonable barrier between the two counties.

† Dr. Harris states the circumference of the island at about ten miles, and Hasted has probably taken it for granted on his authority, but *fourteen miles* will be found nigher the truth.

On the etymology of its name, there have been a variety of opinions, but the most reasonable, perhaps, is that founded on its rich pastures, and the number of *oxen* fatted on them; which opinion, says Hasted, may be corroborated by the figure of an Ox on the sides of the ancient altar, which for time out of mind had remained in the church of Stone, in this island. This altar has been removed, and for some time was used as a horse-block, until Mr. Gostling, a former Rector, released it from this ignoble service, and had it carefully placed in the fence of the vicarage garden, where it still remains. Mr. Hasted supposes it to have been an *altar of sacrifice*, from the blackness and appearance of fire in the bason or hollow at the top.

STONE. The village of **STONE** is situated on elevated ground nearly in the centre of the parish, at the junction of the roads from Oxney-ferry, Small-hythe, &c. and within the fork of these roads stands the church, (dedicated to **ST. MARY**) consisting of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, with a square tower containing a ring of six bells.

The see of Canterbury holds this church and the advowson of the vicarage by no *legal* right, for in the dotation of Henry VIII. (anno 33) the rectory and vicarage of **STONE** near Faversham, and not **STONE** in the Isle of Oxney, was granted; but agreeable to the *spirit* and not the *letter* of the charter, the latter and not the former has been held by it. The *rectory appropriate*, is now held on lease from the dean and chapter, by Sir Edward Hales, Bart. the lessee is bound to keep the chancel in repair, as also a farm-house standing on the glebe. The quantity of glebe land is about four acres.

For the grass lands in this parish, a *modus* of eighteen pence per acre, in lieu of all vicarial tythes, was established in the year 1735.

A piece of land called **LAMPFIELD** containing two acres;

was given, for the support of a *lamp* in the church, but this, like many other idle grants, was rendered void in the 2d year of Edward VI.

WITTERSHAM, like the preceding parish, has few charms to boast of. The village, with the church and parsonage occupy its centre, standing on rather elevated ground, and nearly surrounded by marshes. On the high ground westward, is a hamlet called PINYON-QUARTER, in which the mansion attached to the manor of PALSTRE, called PALSTRE-COURT is situated. At Wittersham a fair for pedlary, toys, &c. is held annually on the 1st of May.

The MANOR OF WITTERSHAM was given towards the support of the Monks of Christ-church in Canterbury (anno 1032) by Eadsy a priest; but in the 8th of Henry IV. it was assigned to the master and fellows of All Saints college in Maidstone, suppressed in the 1st year of Edward IV. (anno 1546) when this manor, with the rest of its possessions came into the hands of the crown. In the reign of Queen Anne it became the property of Mr. William Blackmore, of Tenterden, who by will in 1707 bequeathed it to those of the same name at Briggins, in Hertfordshire.

PALSTRE, in old writings called *the denne of Palstre*, was among the possessions of the Bishop of Baieux at the time of the survey of Domesday, upon whose disgrace it was granted to the family of Crevequer, and in the reign of Henry III. was held of them by Philip de Palstre, in which name it continued till the 20th of Edward III. In the year 1794, Thomas Knight, Esq. of Godmersham died possessed of this manor, devising it to his wife for life, with remainder to Edward Austen, Esq. of Rolling.

OWLIE or *Oveley*, as it was anciently written, was in the possession of a family of this surname early in the reign of Edward II. when it passed to that of Odiarne. In the reign of Henry VII. it was become the property of the Maneyns of

Biddenden, from which family it was alienated in the reign of Charles I. Thomas Knight, Esq. of Godmersham (above mentioned) died possessed of it in 1794.

The church which consists of a nave and one side aisle, is dedicated to ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST; it has a square tower at the west end containing a peal of Bells. The living of Wittersham is in the patronage of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and was held from 1762 to 1765 by Dr. Beilby Porteus, late Lord Bishop of London, of whom mention has been before made. (see Linton.)

Ten acres of glebe land, are attached to the rectory.

EBONEY, is another parish lying partly within the Isle of Oxney, occupying the north-west extremity of it, and extending on the north of the Rother, to the parish of Tenterden. In that part within the Isle, which is extremely swampy and unhealthy, there are but four or five houses, and at REDING-STREET, a hamlet on the turnpike road from Appledore to Tenterden, not more than twice that number.

In the year 832, the MANOR OF EBONEY was by King Ethelwulph given to the priory of Christ church Canterbury, and Edward II. (anno 1317) granted to the prior and convent, *free-warren* within all their demesne lands. Thomas Goldstone, prior, in 1495 made considerable additions to the mansion house; which from its long continuance with the above religious establishment had obtained the appellation of *Eboney priory*. This manor has now the same owner as that of Wittersham.

There are two other manors in this parish, namely WOODROVE and BROCKET, the former belongs to Lord le Despencer, and the latter to Sir Edward Hales, Bart.

An estate here called *Northlands*, was given by Sir Henry Saville, warden of Merton college towards the support of two mathematical lectures, in the university of Oxford, on the subjects of Geometry and Astronomy.

On the site of Eboney church, destroyed by lightning early in the reign of Elizabeth, a very small edifice has been erected, served by the vicar of Appledore, to which church this of Eboney, has always been esteemed a chapel appendant. The PARSONAGE has the same owner as the MANOR of Eboney.



PECKHAM EAST. The name of PECKHAM is supposed to be derived from the Saxon words *peac* and *ham*, the former signifying the peke or summit of a hill and the latter a village or dwelling place.*

Among the several gifts of Queen Edgiva (mother of the Kings Edmund and Edred) to the priory of Christ church, Canterbury, was the manor of Peckham, free from all secular service, excepting the *trinoda necessitas* of repelling invasions and the repair of castles and highways. To the manor, was appendant the church, and the advowson of the vicarage, which so continued united until the dissolution of the religious houses in the reign of Henry VIII. when the former was granted to Sir Thomas Wyatt, and the latter settled on the dean and chapter of Canterbury, who hold to this time the right of presentation to this cure. A grant of free-warren was obtained for the manor of Peckham in the 10th year of Edward II. His grace the Duke of Leeds is the present owner of the MANOR;† but the COURT-LODGE and the demesne lands appertaining to it, are become the property of Sir William Jarvis Twysden, Bart. of Roydon-hall.‡

* Hasted.

† Here, formerly, according to Dr. Harris, was another manor of the same name, held *in capite*, by the service of mewing for the King a Goatsuck every year (*per servitium mutandi unum ostium per ann.*)

‡ Also owner of the manors or reputed manors of ALBANI, EASTMERE and SHELSTED.

EAST PECKHAM is situated in a well wooded and fertile district, abounding with luxuriant oaks, and rich in the various products of the field and the garden. From the north, where it is partly bounded by the grounds of Mereworth castle, the views are extensive, while the home scenery is characterized by an agreeable diversity of surface. The east and south sides of the parish are skirted by the Medway, which also receives the tribute of a small stream flowing from Yokes in the parish of Mereworth, and which unites with the former, a little above the town of Yalding.

ROYDON-HALL the seat of Sir William Jarvis Twysden, Bart. and formerly of a family who gave name to it, occupies the rise of a hill near the northern extremity of the parish next to Mereworth, standing but a little removed from the church and village. This seat which was carried in marriage by a co-heiress to the *Twysdens*, Baronets, in the reign of James I. had annexed to it the liberty of free-warren and licence to empark, obtained of Charles I. by Sir Roger Twysden, who suffered greatly for his attachment and loyalty to that ill-fated monarch, being forced at last to compound for his estate, for a large sum of money. 'He was' says Hasted, 'a great encourager of learning, and a generous patron of learned men, being himself a master of our ancient Saxon and English history and laws, and left behind him the united character of the scholar and the gentleman.' He was born in 1597 (probably on this estate) and died in 1672 at the age of 75 years; his remains are deposited in the church.

In this parish are the hamlets of CHITLEY-CROSS, NORTH-HATCH and HALE-STREET. Dr. Harris observes that 'this parish, *ought* anciently to have contributed towards the repair of the fifth arch or pier of Rochester bridge.'

The church (dedicated to St. MICHAEL) occupies an elevated situation; from which circumstance, and its insulated condition, it is a conspicuous and pleasing object from many parts

of the Weald, but the building, abstractedly, has no claims to our admiration. The whole of the exterior has been plastered, (probably in the year 1740, that date appearing on the vane) which now peeling off, renders it particularly unsightly. It consists of a nave, aisle and chancel, and at the west end, has a square tower surmounted with a small shingled spire.

PECKHAM WEST. The *Hurst Woods* extend into the northern part of this parish, contributing much to the picturesque appearance of the neighbourhood: these woods abounding in luxuriant oaks, encompass an area of several miles, and so late as the reign of Elizabeth are said to have been the abode of *wild swine*; several fine springs have their rise here, which flow towards the village, lying at the eastern extremity of the parish; the western boundary of which is watered by a stream that falls into the Medway at Brand-bridges. On the eastern banks of this rivulet stand the remains of HAMPTONS, long the residence of the *Stanleys* and *Dalisons*, but now neglected and falling to decay; and a little removed in the same direction, OXENHOATH the property and residence of Sir William Geary, Bart. M. P. for this county, situated on the acclivity of the hill, embellished with abundance of highly ornamented timber, and commanding extensive views of the surrounding country. This estate, formerly held of the manor of Great Hoo, by the "yearly payment of a pair of *gilt spurs*," was in early times the property of the Colepepers, and passing through several intermediate owners, it came, early in the last century, into the family of *Bartholmew*, the maternal relatives of the present worthy possessor.

The manor of WEST PECKHAM, prior to the conquest, was in the possession of Earl Leofwine, brother to King Harold, who together with Gurth, the other brother, fell with that monarch at the memorable battle of Hastings. In the time of King John, it was held in serjeantry, by the 'service of bearing one of the King's Goshawks, beyond sea, from the

feast of St. Michael to that of the Purification; when the king demanded it! A partition of this manor was made in the reign of Edward III. one part is now become the property of Lord le Despencer, the other of Viscount Torrington. On the moiety belonging to Lord Torrington was formerly a PRÆCEPTORY established by the Knight's hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, to which fraternity this estate had been given by Sir John Colepeper of Oxenhoath, one of the judges of the common pleas, temp, Henry IV.

'At this place' says Dr. Harris 'lived that great master of history Sir Roger Twysden, Bart.* who assisted Mr. Somner with notes and corrections, when he put forth the laws of King Henry I.† He furnished him also with the chartulary of St. Austin's Abbey in Canterbury, and other valuable curiosities; and it was Sir Roger that prevailed with Mr. Somner to add his incomparable *glossary* to the *Decem Scriptores*.'

The advowson of this church was granted by Edward I. to the priory of Leeds in this county, where it continued until the dissolution of that religious establishment in the reign of Henry VIII. when it was settled on the dean and chapter of Rochester, who still hold the right of presentation to the living.

The present lessee of the parsonage, under the dean and chapter, is Sir William Geary, Bart.

PEMBURY, is the next parish southward of Tudeley. In the *Textus Roffensis*, it is called PEPPINGEBERIA and in ancient deeds PEPENBURY, or as Harris adds PIPINGBURY, from

A A

* This is erroneous; the residence, and it is supposed the birth place, of Sir Roger Twysden, was Royden-hall, in the parish of East Peckham.

† Published in 1644, folio.

the quantity of *Pepins* which anciently grew here, and for which (he says) formerly this place hath been famous.

The parish of Pembury extends in a direction north and south nearly four miles from Tudeley on the north, to the small stream which divides the Weald from the county of Sussex on the south. This stream is principally supplied by a fine spring, that rises not far distant from the church of Pembury, and to which medicinal properties have been ascribed, being reputed in the neighbourhood an effectual remedy for *sore eyes*, &c. but which as HARRIS justly observes "seems only common water." This parish is generally woody, its surface much varied with hill and dale, and possessing an equal diversity of soil; the higher lands, especially towards the west and south, are light, friable and arenaceous, on a stratum of sand-rock, and the vallies mostly a stiff clay, producing excellent corn; marle is here found in great plenty, from which circumstance, added to the natural fertility of the soil, and the proximity of Tunbridge, the lands in this neighbourhood are generally well let. Another small stream has its rise in this parish, which taking a northerly course falls into the Medway opposite to Hadlow.

The church, is placed on elevated ground, and not only a conspicuous object, but a pleasing one from many points, and at the distance of about a mile southward lies the principal village, called the UPPER GREEN, near to which is another small hamlet called by way of distinction the LOWER GREEN; indeed the houses generally in the parish of Pembury, are built in clusters round these small areas. The high-road from London through Tunbridge, Lamberhurst, &c. to Rye and Hastings, runs through the south frith woods on the western side of the parish, which at the 35th mile-stone, it crosses, and at Kipping's-cross it takes another direction, skirting the eastern boundary until it enters Lamberhurst.

"THE MANORS OF PEPENBURY-MAGNA, AND PEPENBURY-

PARVA, alias BOWRIDGE, with the appendant advowson of the church, the land of Crockhurst, and other premises, were given by Simon de Wuhull to the abbey of Begham in Sussex; which gift was confirmed by Walter de Wuhull, his son and heir, and by Richard de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford. And King Edward III. in his 2d year granted to the abbot and convent for ever, *free-warren* in all their demesne lands in this parish, among others."

These manors remained part of the possessions of the aforesaid abbey until its dissolution, when they were granted to Cardinal Wolsey towards the endowment of his college at Oxford, but who being cast in a *præmunire*, they were again seized by the crown, and in the 25th of the same reign bestowed on Sir Edward Guildford, and were subsequently in the possession of Sir John Dudley and Sir Thomas Cromwell (afterwards created Earl of Essex.) On the attainder of the latter, these manors came once more to the crown, and in the 37th year of Henry VIII. were granted (with other premises in this parish) to William Wyborne, to hold *in capite* by Knight's service. From the Wybornes they passed to Robert Berkeley, Esq. of Spetchley in Worcestershire, and Philip Jones, Esq. in right of their wives, by whom, in 1788 these manors (together with the advowson and parsonage of the church of Pembury) were sold to William Woodgate, Esq. of Somerhill, the present owner.

THE MANOR OF HALKWELL usually called *Hawkwell*, as also those of DENCROUCH, HIGHLANDS and PRIGLES, are now the property of James Lewin, Esq. The *former* is divided into two farms called great and little Hawkwell, and was at the time of the dissolution of the lesser monasteries, an appendage to the abbey of Bayham, and a part of those estates granted to Cardinal Wolsey, for the endowment of his college. The *three latter*, were part of the possessions of the cistercian

abbey of Robertsbridge in Sussex, with which they remained till the dissolution, when they were surrendered to the crown, and about the 31st of Henry VIII. granted to George Guldeford, Esq. who shortly after conveyed them to Sir Alexander Colepeper, of Bedgbury, in which family they continued for several descents.

BAYHALL, a considerable manor lying in the southern part of this parish, was part of the ancient possessions of the family of Colepeper, whose demesnes, as Hasted observes "spread over the whole face of the county." Harris derives its name from the Saxon *Beag*, *Heg*, or *Beah*, a garland or crown, and says, it "is a very ancient and pleasant seat, wreathed round like a garland with fine meadows, gardens and fish ponds." The house is indeed very pleasantly situated on the southern acclivity of a hill to the right of the London road, to Rye and Hastings, at the distance of about a mile, and the views from it are delightfully pleasing and extensive; just below the house runs the small rivulet, before mentioned, which joins the larger stream near Bayham abbey, and then forms the southern boundary of the Weald in this quarter. The first noted man of which (the Colepepers) says Philipott, was Thomas de Colepeper, one of the *Recognitores Magnæ Assise*, in the reign of King John, and father of the unfortunate Thomas Colepeper, who was hanged by King Edward II. for denying his Queen entrance into Leeds castle.* On this, it became forfeited to the crown,

* The following is the account given by Hume of this circumstance (History of England vol. II. p. 243.) "The Queen, having occasion to pass by the castle of Leeds in Kent, which belonged to the Lord Badlesmere, desired a night's lodging, but was refused admittance; and some of her attendants, who presented themselves at the gate, were killed. The insult upon this princess, who had always endeavoured to live on good terms with the barons, and who joined them heartily in their hatred of the younger Spencer, was an action which nobody pretended to justify; and the King thought that he might, without giving general umbrage, assemble an army

but by the indulgence of the King a part of it was restored to his son, with license to empark fifty acres; but the manor and seat remained with the crown until they were (by Henry VI. in his 25th year) granted to Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, on the untimely death of whose nephew, they again reverted to the crown, in the 13th year of Henry VIII. and by that monarch, were soon after bestowed on Edward Guldeford, Esq. This manor and seat were subsequently in the

and take vengeance on the offender. No one came to the assistance of Badlesmere; and Edward prevailed."

But this statement materially differs from that given by Hasted (vol V. p. 482 and 483.) though on what authority we know not. He says, speaking of the Lord Badlesmere, that, "being puffed up through ambition and his great wealth, he forgot his allegiance, and associated himself with the Earl of Lancaster, and the discontented barons, which the King being well informed of, resolved, if possible, to gain possession of this strong fortress of Leeds; to effect which, under pretence of the Queen's going on a pilgrimage to Canterbury, she set forward to that city with a large train of attendants, and with a secret intention of surprising this castle, sent her marshal with other of her servants, to prepare lodging for her and her suite, the Lord Badlesmere's family, that is, his wife, son and four daughters, were at that time in it, together with all his treasure, deposited there for safety, under the care of Thomas Colepeper, the castellan, who refused the Queen's servants admittance, and on her coming up peremptorily persisted in denying her or any one entrance, without letters from his Lord. The Queen, upon this, made some attempts to gain admittance by force, and a skirmish ensued, in which one or more of her attendants were slain, but being repulsed, she was obliged to relinquish her design, and to retire for a lodging elsewhere."

"The King chagrined at the failure of his scheme, and highly resenting the indignity offered to the Queen, sent a force under the Earls of Pembroke and Richmond, to besiege the castle; and those within it, finding no hopes of relief, for though the Lord Badlesmere had induced the Barons to endeavour to raise the siege, yet they never advanced nearer than Kingston, yielded it up. Upon which the lady Badlesmere and her children were sent prisoners to the tower of London. Thomas Colepeper, the castellan, was hung up, and the King took possession of the castle, as well as all the Lord Badlesmere's goods and treasures in it."

possession of *John Dudley*, Duke of Northumberland, and the unfortunate Earl of Essex, on whose conviction, they again became the property of the King. Since which time, this estate has had a variety of owners, but for the greater part, was possessed by the Amherst family, who (by purchase) became owners of Bayhall very early in the 16th century. About the year 1790, it was sold to Thomas Streatfield, Esq. in which family it still remains.

In this parish is the manor of Tepperidge, belonging to the Earl of Abergavenny.

The church (dedicated to *St. Peter*) has a spire-steeple at the west end, and was probably built in the reign of Edward III. by John Colepeper, Esq. the patron of it. On a very ancient stone in the chancel, is an inscription in old French, for Margaret, the daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, which appears coeval with the building. It also contains several memorials of the Amherst family; an inscription and figure in brass for Elizabeth Rowe dated 1607, and a tomb for George Bolney, Esq. &c. In the porch are two stones with crosses on them. "In the church was *formerly* a chapel or chancel dedicated to the BLESSED VIRGIN, in which was a chantry endowed; and in the church-yard was another in the reign of King Edward III.* (Harris's Kent, p. 236.) An augmenta-

+ "King Edward III. in his 28th year in consideration of twenty marks paid to him by John Colepeper, of Bayhall, granted license to him to found a perpetual chantry for a chaplain, to celebrate daily for his soul, and those of his ancestors in the chapel of St. Mary, in the cemetery of this church, and to endow it with lands and rents in this and the adjoining parishes; and in his 38th year, in consideration of 100*l.* paid to him by the prior and convent of Rochester, he granted license for them to assign an annual rent-charge of ten marks out of their manor of Woldeham, to the before mentioned chaplain." This chantry was suppressed in the 1st of Edward VI. at which time its total revenues amounted to £11. 15*s.* 4*d.* per annum. The building was soon after pulled down, the materials sold, and the lands belonging to it granted in parcels to different persons. The

tion to the vicarage was made by the will of Charles Amherst, Esq. in 1702, of 10l. yearly, chargeable on the manor and estate of Bayhall, and in 1733, it was farther augmented by the Rev. George May, vicar, who bestowed on it the sum of 100l. 17s. 6d. to entitle it to the benefit of Queen Anne's bounty. A pension of 40s. yearly is paid out of the parsonage to the vicar, which it seems was settled on him and his successors at the time of the appropriation of the church.

PENSURST, is called in the *Textus Roffensis*, PENNESHERST, in some antient records PENCESTRE, and morecommonly PENCHESTER, probably from some fortified camp or fortress, formerly situated here. It is supposed to derive its name from the lod british word *Pen*, the height, or top, and *hyrst*, a wood, reference to its situation. It is the next parish eastward of Chidingstone, and about four miles southward of the sand hills; the river EDEN runs through the centre of it, and here taking a circular course, and having separated into two smaller streams, joins the river Medway, which flows by the southern part of Penshurst-park towards Tunbridge. The general appearance of the country in this and some adjoining parishes is pleasing, though of the melancholy cast; its surface is agreeably varied with alternate hill and dale; possessing abundance of fine timber, and watered by the Medway and several lesser streams. The soil is for the most part a stiff clay, well adapted for the growth of large timber, for which, this part of the county is remarkable; as an instance of it, a tree was felled in the park about twenty years since, called from its spreading branches, *Broad Oak*, which contained twenty one tons, or eight hundred and forty feet of timber!

chapel was situated in the church-yard, being covered with lead, and was in length 30 feet, and in breadth 18 feet. In 1553, there remained a pension of 6l. 13s. 4d. in charge to Richard Hill, the last incumbent of this chantry. (See Hasted vol. V. p. 271 and 272, and Willis's Mitred Abbeys, vol. II. p. 104.)

The village of Penshurst, with the church and parsonage, is situated at the south-west corner of Penshurst park, and very near to the PLACE; 'it possesses little beside the church to attract the attention of a stranger, and of this it is proposed to speak hereafter. On the other side of the river, southward, the country becomes low and wet, the roads bad, and the grounds much covered with coppice wood. In the Medway, near the lower end of Penshurst park, is a deep hole, called *Turners' hole*, whence there arises a spring, which produces a visible and strong ebullition on the surface of the river; and near the south-east corner of the park, is a fine spring of chalybeate water, which on being chemically analyzed, has been found much stronger than those at Tunbridge wells; a stone bason has been placed for it to rise in, by one of the Earls of Leicester. This neighbourhood generally abounds with iron ore, and most of the springs are more or less chalybeate. In Penshurst park is a heronry, the only one in this part of England, it is seated in the lofty beeches, near the keeper's lodge.

There is a district in this parish, called Hall-borough, which is within the lowy of Tunbridge, the manorial rights of which belong to Henry Streatfield, Esq. and another part, comprehending the estate of Chafford, which is within the jurisdiction of the duchy court of Lancaster.

"Few are the places in the county of Kent, perhaps in England, which will be approached with greater reverence, or quitted with more melancholy impressions, than PENSURST, the ancient seat of the Sidneys, Earls of Leicester. It is from the high dignity, and the real worth and talent of its various members, that this family has stamped celebrity on the place, rather than from its remote antiquity; for, when compared with the Sackvilles, Nevilles, and some other families in the neighbourhood, the Sidneys are but of recent date." For upwards of two centuries it was the residence of this family, and is still

vested in a descendant, by the female line, John Shelley Sydney, Esq. eldest son of Byshe Shelley, Esq. but who does not reside in it.

Soon after the conquest, Penshurst became the residence of a family, who took their name from it, Stephen de Peneshurste* or Penchester, possessing it in the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I. This Stephen who lies buried in the south chancel of the church, and part of whose monument still remains, died without issue male, leaving two daughters his co-heiresses; Joane, married to Henry de Cobham, and Alice, to John de Columbers, the latter, *jure uxoris*, became possessed of this and some adjoining manors, which were soon after conveyed to *Sir John de Polleney* or *Poultney*, who in the 15th of Edward II. had license to embattle his mansion houses at Penshurst and elsewhere, and soon afterwards obtained a grant of free-warren within his demesne lands at Penshurst. He was four times Lord Mayor of London, and is noticed by historians for his piety, wisdom, large possessions, and public and private charities. His widow remarrying to the *Lovaines*, conveyed these estates into that family; and they afterwards passed by an heiress, to Sir Philip St. Clere, whose son sold them to the regent Duke of Bedford, third son of King Henry IV. who dying at Paris without issue, they passed to his next brother Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, who for his virtues was surnamed *the good*, and for his justice was esteemed *the father of his country*; after whose sad death in 1447, they descended to the King, and were in the same year, granted to the Staffords.

B B

* He was Lord Warden of the cinque ports, and constable of Dover castle. Harris says, 'he was a very learned man; and ordered all the muniments, grants, &c. relating to Dover castle, to be written in a fair book, which he called *Castelli Feodarium*; and out of which, Darell composed his history of that fortress.'

On the attainder of Edward, Duke of Buckingham, the possessions of this family fell to the crown; and Henry VIII. retained Penshurst in his own hands for many years, and also enlarged the park. Edward VI. gave this manor, with its appurtenances, to Sir Ralph Fane; who, within two years, was executed as an accomplice of the Protector, Somerset, and once more these estates became the property of the crown.

"Thus it appears that Penshurst was, from the earliest times possessed by highly dignified individuals. From the failure of heirs male, it frequently changed its proprietors; in latter times, from the political turbulencies, which prevailed throughout the kingdom, whereby its owners were induced to take an unfortunate part, the consequence was a forfeiture of their property. It was now however destined to a very honorable appropriation, as well as to greater stability of tenure."

Soon after the attainder and execution of Sir Ralph Fane, King Edward granted this and other neighbouring estates to Sir William Sydney, one of the heroes of Flodden Field, who had been his tutor, chamberlain and steward of his household, from his birth to his coronation; he died the following year (1553) at the age of seventy, and was succeeded by his son Sir Henry Sydney, a learned and accomplished gentleman, who had been educated with Edward VI. on whose premature death, Sir Henry retired to Penshurst to indulge his melancholy. He died when Lord President of the Welch marches, in the 28th of Elizabeth, and his body was buried by the Queen's order, with great solemnity at Penshurst; but his heart was interred at Ludlow, the seat of his government.* He left three sons, of whom the two eldest, Sir

* "Few characters will rise brighter from the closest examination than that of Sir Henry Sydney. His private letters and state memorials, (Sydney papers, 2 vol. fol. 1746) have now for several years been laid before the pub-

Philip and Sir Robert, have distinguished places in our annals; and a daughter *Mary*, who became countess of Pembroke; whom her brother Sir Philip, has celebrated in his *Arcadia*; and Ben Jonson immortalized, by the beautiful lines inscribed on her tomb.

Sir Philip Sydney, styled the *incomparable*, was born at Penshurst on the 24th of November 1554. His brilliant talents, and extensive acquirements, obtained him universal admiration; and though not born a prince, it was the general voice that no one was more worthy of a throne. He closed his earthly career at the battle of Zutphen on the 22d of September 1576, and lies interred in St Paul's cathedral.

He was succeeded by his next brother, Robert, born at Penshurst, in the year 1563. SIR ROBERT SYDNEY, very early embraced a martial life. He fought under his uncle, the Earl of Leicester, in the Netherlands, and was knighted there in 1586. Two years afterwards he was constituted Lord Governor of Flushing, and on the accession of James, obtained the rank of a Baron, by the title of Lord Sydney of Penshurst

B B 2

lic. The state of Ireland was then such, that it could not be committed to a vain man of rank as a feather to his cap; it was involved in the most horrid barbarity, dissention and penury, that can be imagined. To bring it into subjection, and assuage the private feuds that spread the most savage murder, and desolation around them, required an union of abilities, knowledge, courage and patience, of which the concurrence can hardly be hoped." "These qualities made him the most direct and clear politician. He seems to have been incapable of intrigue, and the supple arts of a court. His dispatches are full, open and manly; and Ireland, and perhaps Wales, to this day experiences the good effects of his wise government. Indeed Queen Elizabeth's keeping him twenty-two years in that office, at so very perilous a time, when no favor could protect those the nearest to her heart, from the sternness of her resentment upon the slightest miscarriage, is the highest demonstration of his very extraordinary conduct."

(Brydges's 'history of Penshurst and the Sydney family' in the Kentish Register for the year 1793 and 1794).

In the same reign he was advanced to the dignity of Viscount L'Isle, installed a Knight of the Garter, and created Earl of Leicester. On his death, the title and estate devolved to his third but only surviving son. This Earl who died in 1677, had by his lady, the daughter of the Earl of Northumberland, a large family, most of whom occupied conspicuous stations. Of these was the Lady Dorothy Sydney, celebrated by Waller, and the no less celebrated Sir Algernon Sydney, who was implicated in the *Rye-House Plot*, and illegally put to death in 1683, but the soundness of whose patriotism is somewhat impeached by the publication of some manuscripts formerly in the Royal Library of France.*

"The earldom and other subordinate honors, after passing through several descents of respectable, though less distinguished individuals, became extinct in the person of Jocelyn, the last Earl, who died without lawful issue, in 1742." He left however, a natural daughter, (afterwards married to Henry Streatfield, Esq. of Chidingstone,) to whom he devised the whole of his estates; but whose guardians, after an extensive litigation, consented to a compromise, (sanctioned by act of parliament,) with the husbands of the two daughters and co-heiresses of the honorable Colonel Thomas Sydney, next elder brother to Earl Jocelyn, but who had died before him. On the division of the estates, Penshurst became the property of the younger daughter, Elizabeth, married to William Perry, Esq. of Turville park, in Buckinghamshire, who assumed the name of Sydney. Dying in 1757, he left his widow sole possessor; † who added to her possessions by the

* *Œuvres de Louis XIV.* lately published at Paris,

† In Mrs. Perry's time, an unexpected claim was made to the whole, by John Sydney, Esq. son of Earl Jocelyn's Countess, but born after separation. He also challenged the title of Earl of Leicester, but proved unsuccessful in both causes; the claim to the property was decided on a *Writ* of

purchase of most of the family estates that had been allotted to her eldest sister. Algernon Perry Sydney, only son to Mrs. Perry, who died in his mother's life time, had two daughters; Elizabeth, the eldest of whom, married Byshe Shelley, Esq. and their son, John Shelly Sydney, Esq. is the present owner of all the inheritance of the Sydneys, that has escaped alienation.

The PARK, though much decreased, † still includes more

Right, in the court of common Pleas, in January 1782: it is one of the most singular on record.

† North alias Lyghe, and South Parks have been alienated from it. The latter which is within this parish is situated on the opposite side of the road, and on it a villa, was some years since erected by a Mr. Allnutt. The situation of this seat is delightful, the views from it are rich, varied, and extensive, and the home-grounds have been disposed with no inconsiderable share of taste; yet it should be observed, that in the house itself, an equal indication of taste is not observable. The following description of, and observations on this place, are from the elegant pen of P. Amsinck, Esq. "It is situated on the opposite side of the turnpike road, and within a small range, consists of much pleasanter grounds than the larger park, to which it formerly belonged. The house is admirably placed on the rising ground, forming a pleasing object to the whole of the adjacent country; and commanding a view over the village and grounds of Penshurst, and a fine rich country in all directions. In the valley before the house, a branch of the river Medway holds its winding course: it is not navigable here, though it flows with a tolerable body of water; and chancing at this point to fall over a shallow bed of stones by a natural cascade, adds materially to the beauty of the place."

The excursion from the Wells to Penshurst, is very pleasingly varied by returning in this direction. In that case, the traveller passes close to SOUTH PARK; when he will be gratified by a nearer view of so pleasing a spot.

The contrast will strike, and possibly he will be induced to lament an alienation of property, which has occasioned the decline of the venerable parent mansion. The aristocratic enthusiast may perchance, cast an eye of reproach on the modern villa, which seems to smile contemptuously on its lordly predecessor, now falling and tottering beneath its own weight,

than four hundred acres of ground, which is finely diversified by gentle eminences, lawns and woods. In it stands the famous oak, planted at the birth of Sir Philip Sydney, now upwards of twenty two feet in girth, and which has been celebrated by Jonson and Waller. The late Mrs. Charlotte Smith, while at Penshurst, in the autumn of 1788, composed the following beautiful and descriptive

SONNET.

Ye towers sublime, deserted now and drear;
 Ye woods, deep sighing to the hollow blast!
 The musing wanderer loves to linger near,
 While history points to all your glories past;
 And startling from their haunts, the timid deer,
 To trace the walks obscured by matted fern,
 Which Waller's soothing notes were wont to hear,
 But where now clamours the discordant her'd!
 The spoiling hand of time may overturn
 These lofty battlements, and quite deface
 The fading canvas, whence we love to learn
 Sydney's keen look, and Sacharissa's grace;
 But fame and beauty still defy decay,
 Sav'd by the historic page, the poets tender lay.

The MANSION which stands near the south-west angle of the park, has been much reduced in bulk of late years, a part of the buildings having been pulled down and the materials sold. It was formerly a very extensive pile, and though of irregular design, (being the work of different hands) was not wholly destitute of architectural beauty, or domestic convenience. It still contains many good apartments, but the great hall, has been divested of much of its former interest by the mania of modern *improvement*. This fact is thus feelingly

But the real patriot, who contemplates the advanced state of our country, the energies which it has demonstrated, and the immense exertions of which it is proved capable; will hail, in these scions from overgrown possessions, the means whereby these effects are produced; and the proofs of an ameliorated state of society."

deplored by a late writer.* "The hall is a noble room, and till the barbarous hand of modernization fell upon it, was complete in its appropriate costume. The writer of this memoir not many years since, remembers, when the fine timber roof was entire, when the side walls throughout were covered with pikes, lances and match-locks; and the upper end and piers with entire suits of plate armour. That of Sir Philip Sydney was pointed out to the spectator, possibly spurious, but the cheat was allowable, and a very little enthusiasm was wanting to give it reality. At the time alluded to, when the great gate creaked on its hinges, for the admission of a stranger, as he advanced, the responses of deep toned bloodhounds echoed through the house; and by the time he reached the hall, he was prepared in imagination to meet some ancient Knight of chivalrous notoriety; he viewed the place *con amore*. A paltry attempt at a perspective deception, yet unfinished, has been the occasion of mutilating the handsome timber roof, and of abolishing the ancient armour; and all pleasing deception has vanished."

"The classic antiquary will further lament, that, whilst this marring hand was at work, a simple, but characteristic feature of this style of building should heedlessly have been done away. In the upper part of the hall, on the side immediately opposite the door conducting to the staircase, was a small window. Amongst the recent *improvements* this window has been stopped up. It was an index of ancient manners, which merited a better fate. This was the window, in palaces, of the council chamber, or rather of a closet annexed to it; in mansions of less dignity, of the Lord's room of business, whence he could look into the great hall, the usual place of attendance, and summon to him whomsoever he wanted. In this room it was that the council were sitting (as represented

* Paul Amieck, Esq.

by Shakespeare in his play of Henry VIII.) whilst Cranmer was doomed to wait

"Among boys, grooms, and lackeys,"

in the hall. Dr. Butts sees him there with indignation, and proceeds to the council; whence from an upper window, *this very important window*, he exhibits the strange sight to the King:

"I'll shew your grace the strangest sight,

"I think your highness saw this many a day;

"There, my Lord—

(pointing to the scene passing in the hall below)

"The high promotion of his grace of Canterbury;

"Who holds his state at door, 'mongst pursuivants,

"Pages and footboys."

"These are pleasing illustrations of ancient manners, which it is to be lamented that heedless and indiscriminate innovation should ever obliterate."

In the *midst* of the old hospitable hall of this house, says Mr. King, (*Archæologia* vol. VI. p. 346 and 360,) still remains the great *fire-hearth*,* with the old frame of iron,

* Though chimnies were made use of as early as the year 1307; it does not appear that the Saxon manner was generally laid aside for upwards of two centuries subsequent to that period. In *King's Vale-Royal*, speaking of the farm houses in Cheshire, is the following remark. "In building and furniture of their houses, till of late years, they used the old manner of the Saxons; for they had their fire in the midst of their house against a hob of clay, and their oxen under the same roof, but within these forty years they have builded chimneys" (King's work was published in 1656.) And the author of the history of *CRAVEN* (published only a few years since) observes, "that the last farm-house of this ancient construction was remaining in the township of *Tong with Hough* near Bolton in Lancashire within the last twenty years." It will to many appear singular, that an arrangement so seemingly absurd, should have so long prevailed; but it is evident from the best authorities that our forefathers did not entertain the same opinion of a

big enough, and strong enough, to hold vast piles of wood; and almost sufficient to sustain the trunk of a tree. The steps

C c

smoaky house as ourselves, and this is confirmed by the lapse of time, between the introduction of chimnies and the total expulsion of the Saxon manner. It should be remembered that Coal (the smoak of which though not more troublesome, is much more prejudicial than that from Wood) was then, an article, if not wholly unknown, at least, very confined in its use. The following interesting passage of HOLLINGAARD (*prefixed to his History, and which some ascribe to Harrison*) while it serves to illustrate the above, will at the same time convey a very adequate notion of the progress made in arts and refinement at the period alluded to. *Speaking of the increase of luxury*; he says, "neither do I speak this in reproach of any man, God is my judge; but to shew that I do rejoice rather to see how God has blessed us with his good gifts, and to behold how that in a time wherein all things are grown to most excessive prices, we do yet find the means to obtain and achieve such furniture as heretofore has been impossible; there are old men, yet dwelling in the village where I remain, which have noted three things to be marvellously altered in England within their sound remembrance. One is, the multitude of chimnies lately erected; whereas in their young days, there were not above two or three, if so many, in most uplandish towns of the realm (the religious houses and manor-places of their Lords always excepted, and peradventure some great personage); but each made his fire against a xero-dome in the hall, where he dined and dressed his meat. The second is, the great amendment in lodging: for, said they, our fathers, and ourselves, have lain full oft upon straw pallets, covered only with a sheet, under coverlets made of dagswaine or hoplariots, (I use their own terms) and a good round log under their head instead of a bolster. If it were so, that the father, or the good man of the house, had a mattress or flock bed, and thereto a sack of chaff to rest his head upon, he thought himself to be as well lodged as the Lord of the town; so well were they contented. Pillows, said they, were thought meet only for women in child-bed; as for servants, if they had any sheet above them it was well; for seldom had they any under their bodies, to keep them from the pricking straws that ran oft through the canvas, and rased their hardened hides. The third thing they tell of, is the exchange of treene platters (*so called, I suppose, from tree or wood*) into pewter, and wooden spoons into silver or tins. For so common were all sorts of treene vessels in old time, that a man should hardly find four pieces of pewter, (of which one was peradventure

in some parts of the house, are vast blocks of solid oak; and the floor of the first state-room, and of many others, are

tured a salt) in a good farmer's house. *Description of Britain, chap. X. Again in chap. XVI.* In times past, men were contented to dwell in houses builded of willow, &c. so that the use of oak was in a manner dedicated wholly to churches, religious houses, princes palaces, navigation, &c. but now willow, &c. are rejected, and nothing but oak any where regarded, and yet see the change: for when our houses were builded of willow, then had we oaken men; but now that our houses are come to be made of oak, our men are not only become willow, but a great many altogether of straw, which is a sore alteration. In these the courage of the owner was a sufficient defence to keep the house in safety, but now the assurance of the timber must defend the men from robbing. Now have we many chimnies; and yet our tenderlins complain of rheums, cattarrhs and poses; then had we none but rere-dosses, and our heads did never ache. For as the smoak in those days was supposed to be a sufficient hardening for the timber of the house, so it was reputed a far better medicine to keep the good man and his family from the quacke or pose, wherewith, as then, very few were acquainted. *Again in chap. XVIII.* Our pewterers in thine past employed the use of pewter only upon dishes and pots, and a few other trifles for service; whereas now they are growing into such exquisite cunning, that they can in a manner imitate by infusion, any form or fashion of cup, dish, salt, or bowl, or goblet, which is made by goldsmiths craft, though they be never so curious, and very artificially forged. In some places, beyond the sea, a garnish of good flat English pewter, (I say flat, because dishes and platters in my time begin to be made deep, and like basons, and are indeed more convenient both for sauce and keeping the meat warm), is almost so precious as the like number of vessels that are made of fine silver. *If the reader is curious to know the hours of meals in Queen Elizabeth's reign, he may learn it from the same author.* "With us the nobility, gentry and students, do ordinarily go to dinner at eleven before noon, and to supper at five, or between five and six at afternoon. The merchants dine and sup seldom before twelve at noon, and six at night, especially in London. The husbandmen dine also at high noon, as they call it, and sup at seven or eight; but out of term in our universities the scholars dine at ten."

Froissart mentions waiting on the Duke of Lancaster at five o'clock in the afternoon, when he had supped. "These hours are still more early. It is hard to tell why all over the world, as the age becomes more luxurious, the hours become later. Is it the crowd of amusements that push on the hours

formed of huge thick planks of oak, that seem to have been hewn out with an hatchet, or adze, than to have been either sawn or planed."

A little removed from the village and on the left of the road to Leigh, is a seat called **REDLEAF**, pleasantly situated, and commanding some interesting views westward. It was for many years in the possession of the family of Spencer, descended from a family of the same name, at St. Albans, in Hertfordshire; now the occasional residence of William Wells, Esq.

The manor of **HERSBROOKE**, the mansion of which is called **FORD-PLACE**, was the antient habitation of the Sydneys before they removed to Penshurst-place, in the reign of Edward VI. and continued afterwards in the same family, till it passed in like manner as the rest of their estates in this parish, to Sir Brownlow Sherrard, Bart. and William Perry, Esq.

C c 2

gradually? or are the people of fashion better pleased with the secrecy and silence of nocturnal hours, when the industrious vulgar are all gone to rest? In rude ages, men had few amusements or occupations but what day-light afforded them." (*Hume*).

Erasmus ascribes the frequent plagues in England to the nastiness and dirt, and slovenly habits among the people. "The floors," says he, "are commonly of clay, strewed with rushes, under which lies unmolested an ancient collection of beer, grease, fragments, bones, spittle, excrements of dogs and cats, and every thing that is nasty." If we may judge from circumstances, but little improvement seems to have taken place in this respect for a long time after his decease; the greatest plague ever known in this country having occurred more than one hundred and thirty years subsequent to his death. To those who amuse themselves in inveigling against the luxuries and refinements of modern times, this just and characteristic remark, must prove a compleat stumbling block, while by reference it serves to establish our claim to a virtue, which then appears to have been held in but little estimation, but which by the progress of civilization is become an honorable feature in our national character; the best reply perhaps, to the murmurs of ignorance against reasonable innovation, is, that human life has not been shortened, or its comforts lessened by the progress of refinement.

who possessed the manor itself as tenants in common, and the farm or demesne lands of it called Ford-place farm in separate moieties. The manor is now vested in John Shelley Sydney, Esq. But *the farm*, was in 1770 alienated by Lady Yonge and Sir George, her son, to Richard Allnutt, Esq. who died possessed of it in 1789, and his grandson of the same name is now the owner.

Another estate, on which stood CHAFFORD-PLACE; for many descents the property and residence of the ROWE family, a branch of those of Aylesford, in this county, is at this time in the possession of James Harbroc, Esq. The ancient mansion has long since been removed, and a farm house built on the scite.

The church, a large handsome building, (dedicated to ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,) consisting of three aisles, a transept and chancels, having an embattled tower at the west end, with angular buttresses, and at each corner above, an octagonal embattled beacon turret and pinnacle, crowned with an enriched finial and weather vane; constituting on the whole, a pleasing specimen of this style of architecture, and a beautiful feature in the surrounding scenery. The memorials of departed worth, within the church, are comparatively numerous, but little deserving particular description. The stone figure of a knight in armour, being for Sir Stephen de Penchester, which originally laid on an altar tomb in the chancel, is now placed erect against the door on the south side, with the name above it.

This church was formerly in the patronage of the see of Canterbury, and continued so until the 3rd year of Queen Elizabeth, when it was transferred to the Queen in exchange for the parsonage of Earde, alias Crayford; and by her soon after granted to Sir Henry Sydney, in whose descendants it has continued down to the present patron, John Shelly Sydney, Esq.

Some account of the free chapel or chantry of Penshurst, is given in the description of the parish of Leigh, within the bounds of which it was situated.

A fair for pedlary, &c. is held here on the 1st of July.

PLUCKLEY. That part of Pluckley lying on the quarry hills is extremely pleasant, commanding on the north, south and east, extensive views of the neighbouring highly picturesque country. About a mile eastward of the church and village, which occupy the summit of the hill, is **SURRENDEN**, for some ages the seat of the ancient family of **DERING**, whose ancestry may be traced to an era prior to the conquest, one of them holding lands at Farningham in this county, in the time of the Anglo-Saxons. Norman Fitz-Dering, Sheriff of Kent in the reign of King Stephen, was slain at the battle of Lincoln, near the person of that monarch, and being found with his shield covered with blood, his descendants, as a reward of his bravery, were allowed an honorable addition to their arms. The first Baronet of this family was Sir Edward Dering, created in the second of Charles I. remarkable for his learning, imprudence and misfortunes; he died in 1644 at a small house on his estate, whither he had retired with his Lady and family, nearly reduced to indigence from the repeated attacks on his property by the parliamentary forces during the dissensions between the unfortunate Charles and his parliament, and the subsequent civil wars.* He was the founder of the MSS. Library at Surrenden "for which he collected a great number of books, charters and curious manuscripts, and caused others to be transcribed with great labour and expence; among which were the registers and chartularies of several of the dissolved monasteries in this county, and a series of deeds and muniments, relating not only to the family of Dering, but to others connected at different times with it; but most of

* Mention is made of him in Collins's Bar, vol. II. p. 17, and in Peck's Deacid. Curios. vol. II. B. 14. 19. 20

these valuable manuscripts have been unwarily, not many years since, dispersed into other hands.”* His eldest son and successor of the same christian name, married Mary, daughter of Daniel Harvey, Esq. of Combe in Surry, (ancestor of the late Eliab Harvey, King’s council); of which marriage a singular anecdote is related.† In his descendants the MANOR of SURRENDEN (a part of that of PLUCKLEY (Pluckelei) as mentioned in the record of Domesday) is still vested, together with the subordinate ones of *Malmeines*, *Shurland*, *Erering-acre*, *West-kingsnorth*, *Pirifield* and *Roting*; as also that of Pevington, which was anciently a *distinct parish*, but the CHURCH becoming ruinous, it was attached to that of Pluckley, by Archbishop Whitgift, anno 1583.‡ This desecrated building, the remains of which have been converted into a stable, lies on the hill between Egerton and Pluckley, nearly equidistant from both. The MANOR HOUSE of Surrenden, built on the scite of a former mansion was erected by John de Surrenden in the reign of Edward III. and hence called the MANOR OF SURRENDEN, to distinguish it from those of *Malmeines* and *Shurland*, parts also, of the ancient MANOR OF PLUCKLEY; but the mansion has undergone considerable alterations since its erection, particularly during the life time of Sir Edward Dering, Bart. one of the representatives of this county in the four first parliaments of the last reign; who besides considerable additions and alterations to the house, enclosed the park with a brick wall. The virtues, and en-

* Hasted vol. VII. p. 469.

† Ibid. p. 468 and 469.

‡ “There is a tradition here, that Pevington was allotted in three divisions to the parishes of Egerton, Little Chart and Pluckley; that the greatest part of it lying below the hill, as well as the scite of the church, was allotted to this parish; and that the rest consisting of two narrow slips of land, adjoining to Little Chart, was allotted to that parish and Egerton; but says Hasted, I can find no further authority for it. History of Kent, vol. VII. p. 473.

dearing qualities of this amiable Baronet are still fresh in remembrance, and their influence it is to be hoped will long remain; that those who bear his name and title will also strive to emulate his virtues, unquestionably the most valuable part of his possessions. WEEVER thus describes the situation of this seat, "It stands upon the very forehead of that hill, which from this place doth reach westward into Surrey; a situation so elegant, that it compares with most that are, in rich pastures, healthful aire and plenty both of fewell and timber; but, above all, in a very delicate and various prospect.* The house has no pretensions to elegance of design but there is a pleasing air of respectability attached to it.

The church (dedicated to St. NICHOLAS), marks the northern boundary of the Weald in this part, it was built according to Harris, by Sir Richard de Pluckley, who "flourished here in the reigns of King Stephen and King Henry II." "In our Ladies' chapel or chancel there" saith Weever "belonging to the *Derings of Surrenden Dering*, and founded by Richard Dering, Esq.† in the reign of King Henry VI. as appears by his arms carved at the bottom of the arches, are several stones, with figures in armour at their full length." Beside the brasses and other memorials of the Derings and the family of Mal-mains, formerly owners of the manor of that name, there are notices of Major Anthony Nowers, Mabella Bettenham, widow, and Mabella Austin, and in the principal chancel, one

* Weever's Fun. Mon. p. 291.

† Richard, son of the above was a Monk and 'Cellarer' of Christ church Canterbury, who instead of adopting his paternal arms, would, "according to the punning humour of the time" says Dr. Harris "have a *rebus viz a deer and a ring* to express his name." His eldest brother, John Dering was admitted into the society of Modenden (of the order of the Holy Trinity) established in the parish of Hedcorne. See under that article. The former it should be observed was an accomplice in the imposture of Elizabeth Barton, 'the holy maid of Kent.'

to the memory of Nathaniel Collington, *sixty-three years* rector of this parish, who died December the 12th, 1735.

The patronage of this church has been from very early times in the see of Canterbury, for we find that Archbishop Lanfranc who had founded the priory of St. Gregory in Canterbury, (anno 1084) gave the tythes of the *demesne* lands of the Lordship of Pluckley, held of the Archbishop by William de Pluckley, to that establishment, and this gift was confirmed by his successor Archbishop Hubert. The rectorial tythes are now taken by composition, but there is no remembrance of *small tythes* ever having been paid. The value of the glebe, according to Hasted, is upwards of 30l. per annum.

The Rev. Ezrael Tongue S. T. P. resigned this rectory about 1657, "being, as Hasted expresses it, "much vexed with factious parishioners and *quakers*." This fact *if accurately stated*, militates against the general character of this quiet and inoffensive sect, who have rather been the *objects* of persecution and annoyance, than the authors and abettors of it.

R.

ROLVENDEN. The parish of Rolvenden adjoins to that of Benenden on the east; the village and church standing on elevated ground nearly in the centre, and at the junction of the roads from Tenterden, Benenden and Newenden, from which places it is nearly equi-distant. The scenery round this rural and pleasant village, except that it is somewhat less woody, differs little from that in the immediate vicinity of Benenden and the soil in both parishes is very similar. Hasted observes, 'it had formerly the mansions of many respectable families, resident in it,' and though, as he adds, several of these are now converted into mere farm houses, it is not from hence to be inferred that Rolvenden is at this time destitute of

good houses or respectable families. The superior condition of its turnpike roads, which chiefly composed of *beach*,* and the pleasing appearance of the country generally about it, are strong recommendations in favor of ROLVENDEN as a place of residence, while to these favorable circumstances may be added a healthy air and good water. The village has been much improved of late by the addition of several neat dwellings, and its appearance would be further improved, by depriving the church steeple, of its present ragged and shabby exterior.

The small portion of marsh-land in the south-east quarter of the parish, is separated from the Isle of Oxney, by an inconsiderable stream, which falls into the Rother a little southward of Wittersham; for the safety of these marshes in this and the adjoining parishes, several commissions of sewers were issued, in the reigns of Edward I. and Henry VI. to impose an obligation on the respective land owners, of repairing and preserving the banks, &c. against the sea.†

HALDEN-PLACE so called from a family of the name of *Halden*, who possessed it in the reign of Edward III. is now, together with the greater part of the demense lands of the manor, become the property of John Beardsworth, Esq. but the manor itself, with the remainder of the demesne, is vested in the trustees of Sir Horatio Mann, Bart. From the *Haldens*, by the marriage of an heiress (temp. Hen. 4th) this estate passed to the *Guldefords*, who 'made it their principal residence, and from time to time kept their shrievalties here.' The ancient *park* was thrown open in the time of Henry VIII. by Sir John Baker, attorney-general to that monarch, (to whom it was granted in fee) and about the period of the erection of his seat at Sissinghurst, in the parish of Cranbrook.

D D

* A local term for the gravel brought from the coast.

† Dugdale's history of embanking and draining, &c. p. 40. 42. 47. 83.

KINGSGATE-HOUSE, situated about half a mile south-eastward of the church, has been in the family of *Weller* from the time of Charles I. Of these was John Weller, Esq. Rear Admiral of the navy, who died here in 1772.

THE HOLE is another seat in this parish, lying in the opposite direction, at the distance of nearly a mile from the church, and is said by Philipott, to have been, "for many descents last past, the patrimony of the *Gibbons*, who held lands in this parish in the year 1326, and was the seminary, or original seed-plot, whence all of that name and family in Kent primitively sprouted forth." The author of the justly celebrated "History of the decline and fall of the Roman Empire,"* was of a branch of this family, settled at Westcliffe.

In the southern part of this parish is MAYTHAM-HALL which with the manor of Great Maytham is become the property of James Monypenny, Esq. The house, one of the best constructed domestic edifices in these parts, was begun in 1721, and finished in 1760 by a relative of the present owner.

Beside the above, are the manors of Keinsham, Lowden, Frensham with the Gatehouse, and Forsham,† on the latter

* Of this work it has been observed, that it "will probably last as long as the language in which it is written. It abounds with proofs of unexampled learning, of a mind penetrating and sagacious, and of talents for ridicule agreeable and exquisite." Jones's Biog. Dict.

But Professor Porson (pref. to his letters to Mr. Archdeacon Travis) though he admits Mr. Gibbon's claim to merit as an historian and a scholar, justly censures his impious ribaldry, in the following passage. "A rage for indecency pervades the whole work, but especially the last volumes. If the history were anonymous, I should guess that these disgraceful *obscenities* were written by some *debauchee*, who, having from age, or accident, or excess, survived the practice of lust, still indulged himself in the luxury of speculation; and exposed the impotent imbecility, after he had lost the vigour of the passions."

† For the descent, &c. of these estates, see Hasted's account of this parish, vol. VII. 8vo. edit.

of which, was formerly a private chapel for the use of its owners.

The church (the rectory of which was formerly among the possessions of the family of Cobham, by one of whom, namely, John, Lord Cobham, it was given to the college founded by him at Cobham) consists of three aisles and three chancels, with a tower steeple at the west end, the shabby appearance of which has been before noticed. The windows in the great chancel, according to Kilburne, contained formerly the effigies of the most considerable land owners in the parish, but of these little now remain. The south chancel or chapel appears to have been founded by Edward Guldeford, Esq. 'on the day of St. Tiburtius and Valerianus, martyrs.'* April 14th, anno 1444. In the church are several memorials of the Gibbons, and Monypennys, and in the yard the name of Kadwell frequently occurs.

RUCKINGE. This obscure parish lies partly on the clay hills and partly within the level of Romney marsh, between Bilsington, Orlestone and Warehorne. It contains no village, the few houses within its boundary, being scattered over it and chiefly inhabited by the labouring classes.

The **MANOR OF RUCKING** (*Rochingee*) which comprises a principal part of the parish, was among the grants of King Offa, to the priory of Christ-church, Canterbury; (anno 791) the residue was given by Cuthred, King of Kent, "to Aldberht his servant, and Seldrythe, the abbot, being two plough lands in Rosing, situated on both sides of the river Limene, to hold in perpetual inheritance, free from all regal tribute, &c."† The former is now in the possession of the dean and chapter of Canterbury and the latter containing the manors of **BARDINGENE** and **WESTBERIES**, and which at the time of the conquest,

D D 2

* *Hasted.*

† *Hasted.*

was, with a part of the former, among the lands of Hugo de Montfort, is now in several hands. Hasted mentions two other manors in this parish, namely, POUNDHURST and MORE, the first belonging to the Rev. Joseph Gellibrand, of Edmington, and the last to Sir Edward Dering, Bart. of Surrenden.

The church of Ruckinge is small, yet sufficiently spacious for the accommodation of the parishioners. It comprises a nave, side aisles and a chancel, with a small chapel at the east end of the south aisle, now used as a repository for lumber, and of materials for the repair of the church. Within, there is little to gratify the curious; there appears indeed to have been two BRASSES on a stone in the north aisle, but these have long been missing; and at the present it contains no memorials. Externally, Ruckinge church has some claims to attention; as it bears stronger marks of antiquity than any other building within the Weald, and we believe is the only edifice within this district, in which any remains of Saxon Architecture* are to be found. The western entrance and the doorway on the south side are of this style, and in very good preservation.

In the petition of the clergy, beneficed in Romney-marsh, in 1635, for setting aside the custom of two pence an acre, in lieu of tythe-wool and pasturage, the rector of Ruckinge was one of those who met on this occasion; when it was agreed on all sides that wool in the marsh had never been known to have been paid in *specie* (kind) the other tythes being paid or compounded for.

There is a modus of one shilling per acre on all grass lands

* These specimens, are properly Anglo-norman, and probably put up soon after the re-annexation of the manor and church of Ruckinge to the see of Canterbury (anno 1076) but the residue of the building appears of a more recent date. The chief ornament in these entrances is the chevron or zig-zag, but the caps of the columns to the western entrance and the filling in of the arch to the doorway on the south side, have a kind of diamond indented ornament, such as is met with in the church of Herringfleet in Suffolk, and in several others in that county.

in this parish within the marsh, and by custom all the upland pays four pence per acre for pasturage, and one shilling per acre when mowed, no hay having ever been taken in kind, or compounded for. Formerly the woods of this parish paid tythes, after the rate of two shillings in the pound, according to the money paid for the *fellets* of them; but in a suit in the exchequer for tythe of wood, anno 1713, brought by Lodge, rector, against Sir Philip Boteler, it was decreed against the rector, that this parish was within the bounds of the Weald, and the woods in it, consequently freed from tythes; which decree has been acquiesced in ever since.*



S**SANDHURST**, lies on the south side of the Weald, between Hawkhurst and Newenden, adjoining the county of Sussex, from which it is divided only by a small stream called the Kent Dyke that uniting with the Rother, forms the line of demarcation between the two counties on this side. The village occupies a gentle eminence on the main road from London to Rye, and on the road from Cowbeach-green to Bodiam: it consists principally of shops and small cottages. The church, from which the parsonage house is a little removed northward, stands on a knoll at the distance of about half a mile from the village.

This parish contains also three small hamlets called Field-green, Cowbeach-green and Ringlecrouch-green; on the latter there is a well attended Baptist meeting-house (lately taken down and rebuilt at the sole expence of Mr. Thomas Ellis) and on the former, the modern built residence of Edward Collins Ward, Esq. who, among other estates in this

* *Hasted.*

parish, is owner of the MANOR of RISEDEN granted by John Earl of Ewe in 1171 to the priory of Horton, founded in the reign of Henry II. for Cluniac Monks. Westward of Mr. Ward's is *Downgate*, formerly among the possessions of the Turner family, some time since Lords of the manor of Sandhurst, and now in the possession of a gentleman of the same name, who has recently pulled down the old house and is now erecting a more convenient residence nearly on the same scite.

THE MANOR OF SANDHURST was, by Offa, King of Mercia, (anno 791) given to Christ-church in Canterbury, and soon after the conquest, held of the Archbishop by Knight's service, by the family of Criol; and of them, in the reign of Edward II. by Hugo de Combe, whose successor was John de Betherinden.

In the reign of Elizabeth it was sold, together with the ancient manor-house (now called OLD PLACE) by Herbert, son of Vincent Finch, to Pelham, from which name it passed to that of Fowle, and subsequently to those of Turner and Blackburn. A court baron is still held for it. The manor-house, formerly called SANDHURST-PLACE, and which Dr. Harris mentions as 'the principal seat in this parish' is now a mere farm-house. In this parish is the denne of Twisden, called Twisden-street, or Borough, which in very early times was the inheritance of the family of that name, who, in old latin deeda subscribed themselves '*De Denna Fractá*' (a valley broken into two parts) and from whom Philipott supposes, this place owes its present name.

SHADDOXHURST. The situation of Shaddoxhurst is by no means pleasant, the land is generally low and much incumbered with underwood, especially in the direction of Orlestone and Woodchurch; the roads like those in the neighbouring parishes, are extremely bad, not so much the consequence of excessive traffic, as of neglect and mismanagement. The village which is small, stands nearly in the centre of the parish, round a small green, having the church at the south-east end. SHAD-

DOXHURST MANOR was anciently the inheritance of the family of FORSTAL, formerly of some note in the county; from them it passed to the STOKYS or STOKES, and subsequently to RANDOLPH, likewise owner of a considerable estate at Burham near Maidstone. At the beginning of Queen Elizabeth's reign it was sold by Edward, son of Avery Randolph to Sir John Taylor, in which name it continued down to Sir Thomas Taylor, Bart. (created in 1665). Sir Charles Molloy, captain of the Royal Caroline Yacht, who lies buried in the church-yard, and to whose memory, an elegant and emblematical mural monument has been erected in the church, became possessed of this manor by purchase, and dying in 1760, bequeathed it to his nephew, (second son of George Cooke, Esq. of Lincolns Inn) who assumed the name of MOLLOY.

THE MANOR OF CRIOLS-COURT, has also the same owner.

There are two other manors in this parish called MINCHIN-COURT and CLAYPITS, the former belonged to the late John Cole, Esq. of Horsmonden, and the latter is become the property of William Deedes, Esq. of Hythe.

The windows of the church were formerly ornamented with much stained glass, but little now remains; "in one of them are two figures crowned, in one compartment, and in the other a priest kneeling, offering a cup to another figure, who is sitting and crowned." * The chancel is decorated with the banners, sword, helmet, &c. of the late Sir Charles Molloy, and contains a memorial for John Sewell, rector, (obit anno 1591).

This living, (in the patronage of the crown), was augmented in 1767, by a grant of 200*l.* from the governors of Queen Anne's bounty, and with the addition of a like sum, bequeathed by Mrs. Ursula Taylor; which sums were expended in the purchase of lands in the parish. "The glebe land consists of

* Hasted vol. VII. p. 242.

three small woods containing together about nine acres." *

A tythe of wood appears at one time to have been paid in this parish. †

SHIPBORNE, is situated on the northern side of the Weald, adjoining the extensive parish of Wrotham, and in the hundred of that name. From the summit of the sand-hill, it stretches into the vale below, where the soil becomes stiff and churlish, and the country more enclosed, especially towards the south-east. In the time of Henry III. JOHN DE SAY, held in *Siburne* of the Earl of Gloucester one Knight's fee and a fifth: to him succeeded the family of Bavent, by whom in the 12th year of Edward I. a grant of free-warren was obtained, the liberty of holding a market weekly on Monday, and an annual fair on the feast of St. Giles the abbot. These privileges were granted to Adam de Bavent, who was with the King at the siege of Carlaverock in Scotland, anno 1300. The widow of his descendant, Sir Roger de Bavent, in the reign of Edward III. released all her right in the manor of Shipborne, to the prioress and convent of the priory of Dartford, with whom it remained until the general dissolution of monastic establishments, when, with the manor of Puttenden, lying on the east side of the parish, it was granted to Sir Ralph Fane and Anthony Tutsham, Esq.

* Hasted, vol. VII. p. 244.

† "There was an old writing, with several of the parishioners hands, by which they acknowledged eight-pence in the noble due to the rector of Shaddoxhurst, for all acre wood; and Sir Roger Twisden in his treatise concerning the Weald, says, *it is to be observed that the usual paying of tythe wood in any parish, or in many, does not make it due, if it can be shewed that the parishes paying stand in the Weald.* And further says, that he himself has known the rector of Shaddoxhurst to claim tythe-wood in some cases, and quotes the above writing in confirmation of it. But there has not been, for a long time, any tythe paid for wood in this parish." Hasted, vol. VII. p. 243.

to hold *in capite* by Knight's service. Soon after the grant, the latter released all his right and interest in these manors to Sir Ralph Fane,* with whom and his descendants they continued nearly two centuries and a half. The last of the family of Fane or Vane, at this place, was William Hollis Vane, Viscount Vane, and Baron of Duncannon, who succeeded to the estates and titles of his father in the year 1734, and dying without issue in 1789, bequeathed these manors, his seat of Fairlawn, (purchased by one of his ancestors of Sir George Chowne, in the time of Charles I.) and the rectory of the chapel of Shipborne, among his other estates, to David Papillon, Esq. of Acrise. FAIRLAWN, is now the property and residence of John Simson, Esq. one of the representatives in the late and present parliaments for the town of Maidstone, and a banker in London; it is placed on the boundary of the Weald and this parish; the offices only, being in Shipborne. "The mansion was partly rebuilt by the late Lord Vane,† in whose time one of the wings, was twice destroyed by fire." The village called SHIPBORNE-GREEN, lies a small distance from the foot of the hill southward; and on the west side of the green, is the church or chapel, (dedicated to St. GILES) erected by the munificence of Christopher, Lord Barnard, at the beginning of the last century. About a quarter of a mile westward of the church, is the small hamlet of BUDD'S-GREEN.

E e

* "He had been knighted at the siege of Bulleyn (Boulogne) in 1544, and afterwards for his valor at the battle of Musselburgh, in the 1st year of King Edward VI. made a Knight banneret; but in the 6th year of that reign, having warmly espoused the interest of the Duke of Somerset, he was accused of being an accomplice with him, and being found guilty was hanged on Tower-hill, that year." *Hasted.*

† Brayley, in a note to the above, refers for particulars of this nobleman (Lord Vane), and the celebrated Lady Vane, to Smollett's novel of "Peregrine Pickle." *Beauties of England*, vol. VIII. p. 1335.

Christopher Smart, the ingenious author of the 'Hop-garden,' the prose translation of Horace, and a miscellaneous writer of considerable merit, was a native of Shipborne.*

SMARDEN. This place was formerly esteemed a Town, having by the intercession of Archbishop Simon Meopham, in the 6th year of Edward III. obtained the grant of a weekly market, but which has long been disused; a change in the system of *barter* and *sale*, having almost superseded the necessity of markets, and for the most part rendered these grants but an empty boast, or at best but an evidence of the change of times. While this revolution has been advantageous to the farmer and the landholder, the inhabitants of *small towns* have in an equal ratio suffered by it. The corn which the farmer formerly brought to market in small quantities and retailled among his neighbours, (who perhaps after much entreaty to purchase, he was under the necessity of crediting for some months) is now commonly sold by *sample* before it is ready for delivery, and instead of waiting for the money as formerly for months, and collecting it after all with much difficulty by trifles; the whole amount is now generally obtained on, or soon after the delivery; and that without any trouble, and scarcely any risk to the farmer; the credit and respectability of the factor or middle man, depending wholly on the punctuality of his payments. The minor articles of consumption,

* "At Shipborne was born in the year 1722, the ill-fated bard, CHRISTOPHER SMART, who was educated at Pembroke-hall, Cambridge, where he several times obtained the seatonian prize for the best poem on the being and attributes of God. He afterwards wrote the 'Hop-garden' in three cantos, an ingenious and much admired production.. He was a man of considerable vivacity, and poetical talents; but becoming embarrassed in circumstances, grew disordered in mind. His insanity shewed itself in an ungovernable predilection to prayer, without distinction of time, place or circumstance. He died in 1771: his poems were published in two volumes 12 mo. in 1791." *ibid.*

such as poultry, pigs, butter, cheese, &c. are disposed of much in the same way: the farmer's wife and daughters, released from the *degradation* of attending a weekly market, have now merely to attend to the weekly wants of the **HIGLER**, who very politely waits on them: by this *judicious* arrangement, time is gained by the female part of the family; the mortifying necessity of displaying their stock of goods at the neighbouring market-cross is done away, and a consequent taste for the *fine arts*, and a relish for more *lady-like* avocations, have gradually been manifested. These it must be admitted are *important* results from this modern system, and perhaps it is of little comparative importance, that the village epicure is now and then baulked of a relish, or the fickle and wavering appetite of disease occasionally disappointed.

With the grant of a weekly market, an annual fair of five days at the feast of St. Michael was also obtained; now kept on the 10th of October *only*. The **TOWN** and **PARISH** of **SMARDEN**, are obscurely and disagreeably situated, a small distance southward of the quarry hills, the turnpike-road from Charing to Biddenden passing through the town; the situation is low, the land generally flat and unvaried, and subject to frequent inundations; the river Beult winds its course a short distance southward of the town, which is here crossed by a stone bridge of two arches. The roads in this neighbourhood are not of the most inviting description, nor is the timber and underwood, which more especially abound in the eastern part of the parish, calculated to enliven the scenery. At **OMENDEN GREEN**, on the road to Biddenden, is a meeting-house and cemetery for **CALVINISTIC BAPTISTS**, to which is attached a writing school, under the direction of the minister; to whom, for the care of this school, a house and several pieces of land, of the annual value of thirty pounds and upwards, were bequeathed by the founder, of the name of **TILDEN**. At

the distance of half a mile north-west of the town, near SPIKE'S ASH, is another meeting house for UNITARIAN BAPTISTS.

THE MANOR OF THE DENNE OF SMARDEN, was before the time of Edward III. in the possession of the See of Canterbury, and so continued down to Cardinal Archbishop Kemp, who in the 10th of Henry VI. settled it on the college of Wye, (founded by him) where it remained until the dissolution of that establishment in the 36th year of Henry VIII. By that monarch it was shortly after granted to Walter Bucler, to hold *in capite* by Knight's service; to which name succeeded that of Newenden, two of whom (in 1689) namely James and Richard, conveyed it to George Sayer, Esq.

ROMEDEN PLACE, which lies in the eastern part of the parish of Smarden, is an ancient seat, and was formerly the patrimony of the ENGEHERST's, or HENHERST's, who possessed considerable estates in the Weald; to them succeeded the family of CALCH, and subsequently the GULNERFORDS, one of whom in the 23d of Henry VI. founded a chapel in the church of Smarden. In the 24th of Henry VIII. ROMEDEN passed from the name of ROGERS to that of DRAYNER, who appears to have alienated this estate in the 17th year of Queen Elizabeth, probably from necessity, the last of them, namely William Drayner, having rendered himself universally detested, by his intolerance and persecuting zeal in the cause of popery.* This estate was afterwards in the name of OTTAWAY, some of whom attained to very elevated rank in the army.

* In the year 1556, (the last year of the reign of Queen Mary) one Drayner, a Justice of the peace, made use of the Rood-loft, which then was standing here, to place spies and informers in, in order to take an account who did not duly perform the popish ceremonies; and that they might discover this the better, he made for them nine peeping holes in the loft; and because he was severe, and punished such as did not conform, the people hated him, and gave him the name of JYRRICK nine-holes; that expression is still retained as a mark of contempt in this county. Harris's history of Kent, p. 25. and Fox's acts and monuments, fol. 971.

The CHURCH, a rectory in the patronage of the See of Canterbury, was granted by Queen Mary, in 1558 to Cardinal Archbishop Pole. It is dedicated to St. MICHAEL, and consists of a nave and chancel. At the west end is a tower steeple, containing five bells.

SPELDHURST, in which the celebrated *springs* known by the appellation of 'TUNBRIDGE WELLS' are situated, lies on the southern confines of the Weald, adjoining the county of Sussex, in a district abounding with rich and varied prospects, rendered additionally pleasing by their contrast to those of the more enclosed and cultivated country nearer the metropolis. The views here are not generally extensive, but so perpetually changing from the inequalities of surface, that the attention is kept constantly on the alert; hill and dale, woods, rocks, barren heaths, and cultivated enclosures successively composing the ever varying landscape. In the time of Edward III. the MANOR AND CHURCH of Speldhurst were among the possessions of Sir John de Pulteneye, who in that reign founded the college of St. Lawrence, Cannon-street, London, and settled on it, this manor and church, with which they remained until its suppression in the reign of Edward VI. when they were granted to Henry Polsted, being at that time estimated of the clear yearly value of 13l. 14s. 1d.

At the southern extremity of this parish is the hamlet of GROOMBRIDGE, situated within the manor of that name, which, in the reign of Henry III. was the property of William Russell and Hawis his wife, who largely contributed to the endowment of the chapel of St John, erected here in that reign. This chapel falling afterwards to decay, was rebuilt in 1625 by John Packer, Esq. "and dedicated to the service of God, in gratitude for the safe return of Charles, Prince of Wales, from Spain." He endowed it at the same time with 20l. per annum, and 10l. per annum in consideration of a chaplain's board; but the chaplain at this time receives only 12l. 15s. 0d.

annually. A younger branch of the family of COBHAM becoming possessed of this manor in the reign of Edward I. obtained for it a weekly market and annual fair to be held on the eve day and morrow after the feast of St. John Port Latine (May 6th). From the Cobhams it passed to the family of CLINTON, by one of whom (Lord Clinton and Saye) it was sold to Thomas Waller, Esq. of Lamberhurst in the time of Henry IV. whose grandson *Richard*, says Philipott, "was that renowned soldier, that in the time of Henry V. took Charles, Duke of Orleans, General of the French army, prisoner at the battle of Agincourt,* brought him over to England, and held him in honorable restraint, or custody, at GROOM BRIDGE; which a MS. in the Herald's office notes to be twenty four years; in the time of which recess, he newly erected the house at Groom bridge, upon the old foundations; and was a benefactor to the repairs of Speldhurst church, where his arms remain in stone work over the porch,"† Wal-

* The victory obtained at this place is among the most memorable in our history, considering the great numerical superiority of the French force and its fresh and healthy condition, opposed to the harrassed and sickly state of our own army. The French on this occasion brought into the field 150,000 men to oppose a force of only 9,000; but after a sanguinary contest of seven hours, from ten in the morning till five in the afternoon, the enemy suffered a most complete and signal defeat, leaving among their dead, one Archbishop, three Dukes, six Earls, ninety Barons, fifteen hundred Knights, seven thousand Esquires, and in all about ten thousand men. The principal personages who fell in the engagement, were, the constable of France (D'Albret), the Archbishop of Sens, the Count of Nevers, and the Duke of Brabant, brothers to the Duke of Burgundy, the Count of Vandemont, the Duke D'Alencon, the Duke of Barre, and the Count of Marle. The most eminent prisoners were the Dukes of Orleans and Bourbon, the Counts D'Eu, Vendome and Richemont, and the Mareschal de Boucicaut; the number of prisoners amounted to fourteen thousand. The most circumstantial and interesting account of this battle is given in Rapin's History of England, vol. I. folio edit. et seq.

† Villare Cantianum, p. 320.

ler in recompence of his gallantry and as a memorial of his services had granted to him and his heirs an additional crest, viz. the arms, or, *escutcheon of France, hanging by a label on a walnut-tree*, the motto, *Hæ fructus virtutis*. He was sheriff of Kent in the 16th of Henry VI. having served the like office for the county of Sussex in the 12th year of the same reign. From him were descended the celebrated poet, Edmund Waller, and the Regicide, Sir Hardres Waller, a Major-general in the parliament army during the time of the common-wealth. It was here that the poet, while on a visit to his relatives, first saw, and became enamoured with the Lady Dorothy Sydney, whom, under the name of *Sücharissa*, he alternately eulogises and reproaches* with equal fervour; and with like success, as may be inferred from the following lines,

“ While unconcern’d she seems moved no more
With this new malice, than our loves before;
But from the height of her great mind looks down
On both our passions, without *smile* or *frown*:
So little care of what is done below
Hath the bright dame, whom heaven affecteth so.”

The last of the WALLERS at Groombridge was Sir Thomas

* On sight of her picture the enamoured poet exclaims

“ Such cheerful modesty; such humble state,
Moves certain love, but with a doubtful fate:
As when beyond our greedy reach we see,
Inviting fruit on too sublime a tree.”

And in his commendatory address to the painter (Vandyke) he says,

Why, thou couldst not at once assay,
That face to after-times convey,
Which this admires; was it thy wit
To make her oft before thee sit?
Confess, and we'll forgive thee this;
For who would not repeat that bliss,
And frequent sight of such a dame,
Buy with the hazard of his fame?

Waller, Knight, a younger brother of the parliamentary General, and Lieutenant of Dover castle, in the reign of James I.

Yet who can tax thy blameless skill,
 Though thy good hand had failed still?
 When nature's self so often errs:
 She for this many thousand years
 Seems to have practis'd with much care,
 To frame the race of women fair;
 Yet never could a perfect birth
 Produce before to grace the earth:
 Which waxed old, 'ere it could see
 Her that amaz'd thy art and thee.

But now tis done, O let me know,
 Where those immortal colours grow,
 That could this deathless piece compose
 In lilies, or the fading rose?
 No, for this theft thou hast climb'd higher
 Than did *Prometheus* for his fire.

but incensed at the inflexible indifference of his mistress he passionately exclaims,

To thee a wild and cruel soul is given,
 More deaf than trees, and prouder than the heav'n.
 Love's foe profest, why dost thou falsely feign
 Thyself a *Sydney*?

to no humane stock
 We owe this fierce unkindness, but the rock,
 That cloven rock produced thee, by whose side
 Nature to recompence the fatal pride
 Of such stern beauty, placed those healing springs,*
 Which not more help, than that destruction brings.

One of Waller's best pieces on the subject of his love to the bewitching *Sacharissa*, is, his application of the story of *Phæbus* and *Daphne*. p. 37. edit. 1696. The following mention of our Poet is taken from *Jones's Biographical Dict*,

* The Tunbridge Wells.

In the chapel of Groom-bridge are several memorials of the family of Packer, and in the windows their arms and quarterings. The church of Speldhurst was destroyed by lightning on the 22d of October 1791, and all that it contained 'which could become a prey to the fiery element' was reduced to an indiscriminate heap of ruins; it is worthy of remark that the font though left entire, was turned up-side-down. Over the porch, which is described as very curious, was an antique shield bearing the arms of France, placed there in compliment to Charles, Duke of Orleans, a considerable benefactor to the repairs of the church, as before stated. By aid of a brief, the church has been restored, though on a much smaller scale; it consists only of a nave and chancel. The parishioners claim an exemption of all small tythes whatsoever.

STAPLEHURST. The village of Staplehurst is pleasantly situated on a ridge of elevated ground, which crosses the parish in a direction nearly east and west, and at the distance of five miles northward from Cranbrook, the houses lying on the sides of the road from thence to Maidstone. The reputed purity of the air in this neighbourhood has rendered it the occasional resort of invalids from different parts of the county, particularly from Romney marsh, and the low lands of East Kent, who have seldom failed to derive advantage from a temporary stay at this place. Among the few respectable dwell-

F f

Waller (Edmund) an eminent English poet and political writer, memorable, above all, for his address in improving and refining the English tongue. He was indeed the parent of English verse, and the first who shewed us that our language had beauty and numbers in it; for between what Spenser wrote last, and Waller first, there was not much above twenty years distance; yet Waller's language, like the money of that time, is as current now as ever; while Spenser's words are like old coins, one must go to an antiquary to understand their true meaning and value. He was born 1605, and died 1687.

lings in the village, is that belonging to Mr. Watson, Surgeon, which presents an agreeable and uniform elevation towards the street, and forms its most important feature. At the north end of the village and on the east side, is the ancient manor house of LODDENDEN, situate in the borough of the same name, the property and residence of Nicholas Toke Usborne, Esq. in whose family this estate has continued for several generations: the old house stands in a small paddock, a short distance from the road, and as seen from thence is a pleasing object. On the opposite side of the road, a superior seminary for a limited number of young ladies has been established by the Misses Tress, on a plan, which we doubt not will meet with due encouragement: such an establishment has long been a desideratum in these parts, and a more healthy and suitable situation could not have been selected for it. A little removed from the above is "*The Cottage*," a fanciful thatched residence erected within these few years by Jonathan Gillett, Esq. who still occupies it.

The manor of Staplehurst, is the property of Sir Horatio Mann, Bart. who has considerable estates in this neighbourhood. In the time of Edward VI. it belonged to Sir Henry Ifley, who with his son William, were attainted for the rebellion raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt, in the 1st of Queen Mary, and their lands forfeited to the crown. The former was executed at Sevenoaks, by order of that bigoted and sanguinary Princess.

In this parish was a free chapel, erected by Hamon de Crevequer, invested with several privileges, and annexed to the manor of NEWSTED; but by an act passed in the 1st of Edward VI. this chapel with others of a like sort were suppressed and their revenues seized by the crown: it was not long afterwards granted to Sir Edward Wotton, Knight, in whose descendants it continued down to Thomas, Lord Wotton, deceased in 1630, who, before his death, settled it in marriage

upon his eldest daughter and co-heir, married to Henry, Lord Stanhope, son and heir of Philip, Earl of Chesterfield. After passing through several hands it became in 1730, (by purchase) the property of Mr. Thomas Mercer, of Hawkhurst, and is at present in the possession of his grandson, I. D. Mercer, Esq. of the same place. "This estate consists of two farms, adjoining to each other, called *Great* and *Little Newsted*, the latter of which claims an exemption of tythes."

The church* (dedicated to ALL SAINTS) stands at the south end of the village, and immediately below it the parsonage

F f 2

* "The REGISTERS of this parish are peculiarly curious, from the many singular entries that appear in them. Most registers were re-copied at Elizabeth's accession, that all remains of popery in her sister's reign might be obliterated; but the original has here been preserved as well as the copy. Among the peculiarities are the words "*whose soul Jesu pardon*" attached to the items of burials: the names of the *sponsors* at baptism are added to the notices of christenings agreeably to Cardinal Pole's injunction; and under the date 1555, are several entries of women that have been '*churched*.' Here, too, we find children baptised by '*Women of good report*,' who, like the Roman catholics, often baptised the infant before the birth, and that by the name of '*creature*;' an appellation that constantly occurs, when a baptism at '*Home*' is mentioned. It is probable that this name was changed either at or before confirmation; though there is one instance in 1578, of a woman being '*married*' by her baptismal name of '*creature*.' *Still-born* children are also registered; and several '*Licenses*' to those who were sick, to '*eat meat in lent*,' or for some part of that season. The better to distinguish the different persons recorded, the respective trades are not only given, but also the extraordinary additions of '*infant, child, youth, lad, wench, maiden, an old innocent man, a poor old maiden, a poor old wench, a poor old man with a stiff leg, an honest wyffe, full of alms and good works; an honest man, and good householder; an honest matron, &c.*' In the beginning of Elizabeth's reign, such as were buried '*sine crucis signo*' occur in different items; and illegitimate children are sometimes called the '*children of God!*' Many particulars of the parochial '*clergy*,' and of others who occasionally preached here, are also recorded. The Rev. Henry Kent, A. M. who was instituted in December,

house, a small modern dwelling, pleasantly situated. The former is an object of some interest, seen at a distance; but which is not increased by a closer inspection, indeed it is altogether undeserving the epithet (*of handsome*) which Hasted has bestowed on it; had this expression been applied to the LIVING rather than the CHURCH there would have been more of propriety in its application. The present value of this living is not less than 1100*l.* per annum. Within the walls of this edifice, there is little to amuse the curious, except the *embellishments* of the altar which, like those of Goudhurst, though not calculated to promote IDOLATRY, are yet of sufficient importance to excite attention. Should these things become fashionable, and the innovating spirit of DAUBING be tolerated, we may soon expect the walls of our churches to display all the variety of character, exhibited in the *galantee shew*, and the place itself become a mere exhibition-room of non-descripts. Were these attempts confined to the portraits of Moses and Aaron, or objects of equal indifference, though they might raise a smile, they would do but little violence to our feelings: but when a subject like the CRUCIFIXION is attempted by *such hands*, we know not which, most to despise, the presumption of the painter, or the folly and ignorance of his employers. The charge of the church and the management of parish affairs, are generally entrusted to men of mean education, and from whom neither taste, or propriety is to be expected, while those above them, from the desire of being freed from the drudgery of parochial business, are cautious of interfering, and instead of opposing or com-

1645, and afterwards deprived by the reigning powers in the time of the commonwealth, died here through the trouble he underwent, in July, 1650. "The late vicar the Rev. Harry Grove, was a descendant of the well known unfortunate loyalist of that name, cut off by Cromwell." For some *ingenious* observations on the baptism of children before the birth. See Sterne's Works, vol. I. chap. XX.

bating a folly of this kind, content themselves with laughing at these decorative fancies, without considering that they will come in for a share of the general censure, which must follow. It is not expected, that every man should be an artist: but it may reasonably be expected, that those who would be thought gentlemen, should be able to distinguish between the works of a Michael Angelo, a Titian, or a Guido, and the sorry efforts of a village sign painter.

EAST SUTTON. This as Hasted observes "is a small parish, and would be but little known or frequented was it not for the residence of the FILMER family in it." The village, called Chartway street, is situate at the northern extremity of the parish and consists of a few indifferent houses, built chiefly on the southern side of the road, the opposite side being in BROMFIELD; it contains beside, two inconsiderable hamlets called Friday and Sunday streets. The church occupies nearly the summit of the hill, which is here ornamented with considerable quantities of fine timber; and immediately below the church is EAST SUTTON PLACE which for upwards of two centuries has been the seat of the FILMERS, Knights and Baronets. Before their removal to this place in the reign of James I. they occupied the manor-house of Little Charlton; but the family appear to have been seated at Herst, in Otterden parish, as early as the reign of Edward II. Of this family was Sir Robert Filmer, on whom the honor of Knighthood was conferred by Charles I. and who for his loyalty and attachment to his persecuted master, suffered greatly during the civil wars and commotions of those times; his mansion having been repeatedly plundered and himself imprisoned. He died in 1653. He was author of the "*Patriarcha*, or the natural power of Kings;"—"Reflections concerning the original of government,"—and other works in support of monarchy. After the demise of the eldest son, Edward, who succeeded to his estates and died at Paris, unmarried, in 1668, the

second son, Robert, a barrister-at-law, became possessed of them, and in consideration of the sufferings and loyalty of his father was created a Baronet (anno 1674). The present possessor of this estate is the Rev. Sir Edward Filmer, Bart. who succeeded to it on the demise of his brother, Sir Beversham Filmer, the latter dying at an advanced age without issue. The park is finely wooded, and from the grounds near the house, which stands on the brow of the hill, the views over the Weald are extremely fine; below is a sheet of water contributing much to the beauty of the place. The mansion and park were considerably improved and augmented by the first Baronet, in the reign of Charles II. who also enclosed the whole with a stone wall. The church (dedicated to St. PETER and St. PAUL) is a neat edifice, containing numerous memorials of the family of Filmer and others in alliance with it: the earliest is that which records "the singular industry and judgment of Robert Filmer, Esq.* who for the space of twenty years was one of the Prothonotaries of our Lady, Queen Elizabeth, of her Common Pleas at Westminster." The *brasses* of this family have been admirably preserved; the most singular is that to the memory of Sir Edward Filmer who died in 1629, it is within the altar rails, and on it are the portraits of his wife, himself and his numerous issue,† with the respective names over each, and at the corners the arms and quarterings of himself and wife. The lady of the late Sir Beversham Filmer, lies buried in a vault between two buttresses of the church, and within the small enclosure formed by a railing in front between the buttresses, flowers were planted agreeable to her request "and kept in exact order by the hands of her disconsolate husband." In the church is

* He was the first of the family, settled in this parish, and father of Sir Edward Filmer, the purchaser of East Sutton-place and manor.

† Nine sons and nine daughters.

an inscription commemorative of the virtues and intellectual endowments of the deceased.

The *church* of Town Sutton with the *chapel* of East Sutton annexed, were settled by Henry VIII. on the dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom they still remain. The Filmers have for many years held the lease of the parsonage.

SUTTON VALENCE, OR TOWN SUTTON, was prior to the conquest among the possessions of Leofwine brother of King Harold, who with that monarch fell at the fatal battle of Hastings. On the accession of William, a grant of it under the appellation of *Sudtone* was made by him to Odo Bishop of Baieux, his maternal brother, but the name of VALENCE by which it is now commonly known, it acquired says Philipott "from owning William de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, to be the Lord of the fee, who certainly instituted that CASTLE, that now, even in its relics and fragments, with much of venerable magnificence, overlooks the plain."* The Castle of Sutton stands a little removed from the village eastward, occupying a commanding situation on the brow of the hill, from whence the view southward is extensive and interesting. Its remains are strongly characteristic of the times in which it was erected, when, "men not daring to rely on the guardianship of the laws, were obliged to devote themselves to the service of some chieftain, whose orders they followed, even to the disturbance of the government, or the injury of their fellow citizens."† The walls are more than three feet thick, composed chiefly of rag-stones and flints, with here and there a course of thin bricks or paving tiles; in the sides are loop holes at regular distances; what remains of this once formidable structure, appears to have been the keep, it is mantled

* Villare Cantianum, p. 333.

† Hume.

with ivy, and nearly overgrown with brush wood, which contributes much to its picturesque appearance.* Kilburne supposes the sea to have formerly flowed up the valley below Sutton castle, which he conjectures was built, when it did so, but this extravagant supposition, appears to rest only on the discovery of an anchor, in the neighbourhood, within the memory of some men living.

The town, or rather village, lies a little below the summit of the hill, near which on the western side is the church, and on the small green adjoining the church-yard, the manor house: below the village and midway down the hill, stands Sutton-place and the parsonage. The former in the reign of Charles II. was the residence of Archibald Clenkard, Esq. who kept his shrievalty here in the year 1682, and the two succeeding years. In this parish a *free grammar school* was erected in 1578, by William Lambe, a gentleman of the chapel to King Henry VIII. (and according to Dr. Harris, a great favorite of that monarch) who endowed it with 20l. per annum to the master, and 8l. per annum to the usher. Two exhibitions of 10l. each, were given to St. John's college in Cambridge by the will of the Rev. Francis Robbins, B. D. for the benefit of two scholars educated at this School; he also bequeathed 3l. per annum to the poor of the parish. In the village are six alms houses founded by the above William Lambe, with an allotment of 10l. annually, to be divided among the occupiers, who must be natives of the parish.

The church, situated on the southern declivity of the quarry hill, is an irregular pile, but not destitute of interest: its tower stands nearly in the centre on the north side and is covered with a shingled roof, as is the greater part of the

* A view of the ruins of Sutton castle, is given as a frontispiece to the 5th vol. of Hasted's history, 8vo. edit. Its only recommendations are its age and situation.

body of the church. In the window on the north side of the chancel are some trifling remains of stained glass.



TENTERDEN.

The hundred of Tenterden was anciently considered one of the seven hundreds and within the jurisdiction of the Justices of the county, but by Henry VI. on account of the impoverished state of the port and town of Rye, it was annexed to that place and separated from the county of Kent; it was also incorporated by the style of "*The bailiff and commonalty of the town and hundred of Tenterden,*" and invested with the same franchises, privileges, and freedoms, enjoyed by the barons of the cinque ports before that time, subject however to the same claims towards the burthens and exigencies of that port and town. But in the 42d of Elizabeth, the style of their incorporation was changed to "*The Mayor, Jurats and commonalty of the town and hundred of Tenterden,*" by which it still continues to be governed.*

G g

* This corporation consists of a mayor, twelve jurats, and as many common councilmen, a chamberlain, and town clerk. The mayor is chosen yearly on the 29th of August. The original town-hall was burnt down in the year 1660, by some prisoners confined in the prison room over it; since which (in 1792) a new one has been built adjoining the Woolpack Inn, where the public business of the corporation is transacted, and which occasionally is used as an assembly room. The mayor is coroner of the town and hundred; there is no sheriff; the commoners must be residents, and are chosen by the mayor and two of the Jurats; the latter of whom by virtue of their office are justices of the peace. They hold sessions of oyer and terminer, but cannot try treason. In 1785, two men were tried here, convicted of burglary, and executed at Gallows-green. By the fire of the town-hall in

According to Philipott, this place was formerly written *Thein Warden*, as being the ward or guard of the *Thame* in this valley: and supposes it to have been a branch of the government of *Anderida*; which however he erroneously places at *Reding-hill*.*

The country in the immediate vicinity of the town, which is advantageously situated on the most elevated ground, is pleasant, especially on the north and west, the land being agreeably varied with gentle swells, and embellished with some few highly ornamental oaks, and other forest trees; but what most contributes to enliven the environs of this place, is the great proportion of land under pasture; and consequent display of flocks, and herds; the grazing business being here more in esteem than any other branch of Husbandry.

The Town is not remarkable either for the regularity or elegance of its buildings, though it contains *some* respectable houses; the most favorable approach to it, is from Granbrook or Rolvenden, these two roads uniting just beyond its western extremity; near which on the left is a large well built house, lately the residence of Thomas Blackmore, Esq. but now unoccupied; the houses on the south side of the town, are, with few exceptions, old and mean to a degree, ill according with the reputed wealth of the place; and the idea of wretchedness which these alone, are calculated to inspire, is much increased by the broad *waste* on the western side of the turnpike gate, which seems applied to no useful purpose whatever; unless we except the fair that is annually held on this spot; but which

1660, the two original charters of this corporation were destroyed, but an exemplification of them was obtained in the 12th of his present majesty.

The mayor and jurats are lords of the royalty of the court of the bailiwick of the seven hundreds: and over each of the six boroughs into which the parish is divided, a borsholder is yearly chosen.

* For an account of *ANDERIDA*, see the article *NEWBURY*.

perhaps is the greatest nuisance to which it is obnoxious: *moor land* in a town is seldom of any advantage to its inhabitants *generally*, and more rarely is it found to contribute any thing to the beauty or respectability of a place. On the north side of the street the buildings are as opposite in character as situation, though many of them are shops and the dwellings of tradesmen, and neither remarkable for size or elegance of design, yet have a spruceness of appearance and an air of comfort which cannot fail to please a stranger. On the western side of the turnpike gate in the town, is, what is called the *market-place*, an old wooden fabric tottering under the weight of years; and adjoining the toll-house, stands the prison, but which is not more ornamental than the former.

The soil of the parish is various, in some parts light and friable on a substratum of sand stone, in others stiff and clayey; and bordering on the marshes the surface soil is a deep rich mould; it contains but little coppice wood, the principal lying between the town and SMALL-HITHE, a hamlet situated rather more than three miles from the town at the southern extremity of the parish and close to the old channel of the river Rother, over which there is a passage into the Isle of Oxney. From the expressions occurring in old writings of those *infra oppidum* and *intra oppidum de Small-hyth*, it appears formerly to have been a place of some consequence, though now dwindled into insignificance; its only remains are three or four farm houses and a few small dwellings for cottagers in the street near the chapel. According to *Hasted* the sea came up to this place so lately as the year 1509, as is evident by the power then given of burying in this chapel-yard the bodies of those who were cast by shipwreck on the shore of the sea *infra predictum oppidum de Small-hyth*; which are the very words of the faculty granted for that purpose.

The CHAPEL at this place, in which divine service is still performed, was built and licensed by faculty from Archbishop

Warham * about the year 1509 and was dedicated to ST. JOHN BAPTIST. The words of this instrument are somewhat remarkable. "*And we William, Archbishop aforesaid, of the infinite mercy of Almighty God and by the authority of St. Peter and St. Paul the apostles, and also of our patrons St. Alphage and St. Thomas, remit, &c.*" The chapel is repaired and maintained out of the rents of lands in this parish and Wittersham, vested in trustees.

The road from Tenterden to Small-bithe is said to have been formerly lined with buildings, especially about that part of it known by the name of *Broad Tenterden*, and to have been the most populous part of the parish.

About three miles and a half eastward of Tenterden and on the road from thence to Appledore, is Reding-street, where

* Erasmus has given us a great character of this man, for whom he seems to have entertained a high opinion, as may be presumed from the circumstance alone, of dedicating to him his edition of St. Jerome; yet it is difficult to reconcile a friendship between two persons of such opposite principles and character. The usual bond of amity between men, is, a similarity of tastes and pursuits, or at least some affinity of disposition, but neither of these can be supposed to have operated in this instance, unless we admit the character of the former to have been too highly drawn, or that the latter was really less exceptionable than from history we are led to infer. WARHAM though learned, was a slave to superstition and a favorer of priestcraft and imposture; rendered vain and arrogant by fortune, his zeal became intolerant, and the opposition made to the imagined parity of the sepeculative principles he had embraced, rendered him at once cruel and unjust; the cheat put up him by *Masters* and the *Holy maid of Kent* is a sufficient evidence of his superstitious weakness, and the book of martyrs will amply supply the rest. Erasmus on the contrary was not less remarkable for his urbanity and liberality of sentiment, than for his superior genius and attainments; courted and caressed by every potentate in Europe, it is not easy to conjecture what could lead him to attach so much importance to his acquaintance with Archbishop Warham; it is true they held one faith in common and in essentials their theological opinions might not differ, but the liberal disposition of the latter, seems ill suited to the bigoted enthusiasm of his friend; in fact he appears to rise as much superior to him, in moral virtues, as in intellectual endowments.

barracks have within these few years been established, and which Philipott supposes to have been the scite of the ancient Anderida. This place is about a mile and a half N. E. of Small-hithe, and on the borders of the marsh.

"It ought to be remembered to the honour of Tenterden," says Dr. Harris, "that many persons of both sexes here began to oppose the corruptions and idolatries of the church of Rome, before ever Luther began to declare against indulgencies: and forty eight persons in and about this town were accused in Archbishop Warham's court on that account; five of whom; viz. four men and one woman, were condemned to the flames, and no doubt executed; for no pardon appears upon record."

Of the persons who suffered martyrdom in the time of Archbishop Warham, only *two* are named as belonging to this place, viz. William Carder, a weaver, and Agnes Grebil, a woman of about sixty years of age, who being convened, denied what was alledged against her, yet was condemned, and that, on the evidence of her husband, and her two sons, who, (it is observed) through fear, were put upon deposing these things against her!! They suffered together with William Harrison of Halden, and Edward Walker of Maidstone.

But before this time it appears that John Waddon, a Priest of Tenterden, being apprehended by virtue of a commission from King Henry VI. directed to the gaol keeper of Colchester, to seize and arrest all persons suspected of heresy, was committed to the castle of Framingham, in Sussex; and having been cruelly handled to make him recant, but in vain, was at length burnt at Norwich.

The last on record as having suffered martyrdom, belonging to this place, is John Lomas, a young man, who (with Agnes Sneath of Smarden, Anne Albright, Joan Sole, and Joan Catmer) was burnt at Canterbury, January 31st, 1556, and in the III. of Queen Mary.

On the day of the great earthquake at Lisbon, (November 1st, 1755) between ten and eleven o'clock in the forenoon, several ponds in this parish and neighbourhood without any sensible motion of the earth, were greatly agitated, the water of them being forced up the banks with great violence, fretting and foaming with a noise similar to the coming in of the tide, so as to terrify many who were near them; some of these waters flowed up three times in this manner, others circled round into eddies, absorbing leaves, sticks, &c. and it was observed that only those ponds were affected, that were supplied by springs.

The fair held annually at this place is on the first Monday in May, for cattle, wool, &c. and is generally well attended.

Of the principal estates in this parish, the prescribed limits of the present work will allow but little more than a bare mention.

HALES PLACE, was formerly of some note, but now reduced to a farm house, its situation is at the north west end of the town. It is the property of Sir Edward Hales, Bart.

HERNDEN, or more properly *Heronden*, as may be presumed from the arms of its former owners, was once an estate of considerable magnitude, but long since divided. Its principal owners at present are Jeremiah Cartels, Esq. of Tentertden, and Edward Jeremiah Cartels, Esq. of Windmill-hill.

PITTLESDEN, or as it was anciently written *Pittlesden*, is a manor in this parish, which had owners of considerable note in former times; among them are the following; Sir Edward Guldeford, Warden of the cinque ports; Sir John Dudley, created Duke of Northumberland; Sir Thomas Cromwell, afterwards Earl of Essex, the latter of whom passed it by sale to King Henry VIII. and in the hands of the crown it remained until the 7th of Edward VI. who in that year granted it, with the pond of water, wear and fishery, with the dove-house

belonging to it, and all its appurtenances, to Sir John Baker, one of his privy council, and of the family of Bakers of Singhurst. It is now become the property of Mr. Blackmore. The residence attached to this manor is situated near the west end of the town.

LIGHTS, anciently called *Lights Notinden*, is a small manor, which with *East Asherinden*, belonged formerly, partly to a chantry* founded in this parish, and partly to the manor of Brooke near Wye, which was among the possessions of the priory of Christ-church in Canterbury, and so continued until the suppression of those religious establishments in the time of Henry VIII. when by that monarch these manors were granted to Sir John Baker, his Attorney General. The former is now the property of Thomas Weston, Esq. and the latter of Robert Curteis, Esq.

FINCHDEN, an estate situate at Leigh green, was formerly in the possession of a family of the same name, of whom William de Fyncheden was chief Justice of the King's Bench, in the 45th year of Edward III. though his name in some old law books, is written contractedly *Finch*. The present owner is Robert Godden, Esq. a banker in this town.

ELARDINDEN, formerly parcel of the manor of *Frith*, in Bethersden, and anciently part of the possessions of the family of Mayney, is now the property of Sir Edward Hales, Bart.

THE MANORS OF GODDEN AND MORGIEU, are situated in the south-west part of the parish, and were formerly part of the possessions of the *Aucker* family. In the reign of Henry

* "This chapel or chantry of *Lights*" says Dr. Harris, "I believe was formerly a little church, and is so described in the old maps; and in *Dugdale's* map of Romney marsh is called *Small Light*; and now *Small Hithe* in *Bymondson's* map." Hist. of Kent, p. 312. But the doctor is here evidently in error, mistaking and confounding the chapel of *Small-hithe* with the chantry spoken of above, of which it is not probable there were any remains in his time, as the scite of it is now matter of conjecture alone.

VI. these estates were purchased for the endowment of a chantry in the Cathedral of St. Paul, London, founded by the executors of Walter Shiryngton clerk, and which after him was called *Shiryngton's Chantry*: on its suppression in the 1st of Edward VI. these manors became the property of the crown and were soon afterwards granted to Sir Miles Partridge, to hold *in capite* by Knight's service. They were subsequently in the family of Colepepper, and are said to have been the last of the once extensive possessions of that family in this county. In 1781 they were alienated to the present owner, Mr. Richard Curteis.

KENCHILL was formerly the property of the family of Guldeford; by an heiress of which it was carried in marriage to Sir John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland. In 1687 it was purchased by Mr. John Mantell, grazier, of Tenterden, "who was one of the instances" says Hasted "of the quick accumulation of riches from Romney marsh; for in fourteen years he had acquired sufficient to become the purchaser of this and other estates, which rented at 800l. per annum."

The church (dedicated to St. MILDRED) consists of two aisles and three chancels, but excepting the tower at the west end, has no claims to architectural beauty, or even respectability of appearance; yet, the meanness of the one part serves, by the force of contrast to display to more advantage the beauties of the other. The observation frequently applied to MAN and WIFE, will strictly attach to the parts of this building; "*though joined, they are not matched.*" The one is singularly elegant, and the other by comparison, mean and contemptible. The tower or steeple,* which from its elevated

* Not many years since, a *beacon* attached to a piece of timber about eight feet in length, was remaining on this steeple; it is described as an iron kettle, with a ring or hoop of the same metal round the upper part of it, and which had been enlarged by such means for the purpose of holding more coals, rosin, &c.

situation, is seen to much advantage for many miles round, is rendered more notorious by the unfounded and absurd stories* with which it is connected, than by any intrinsic beauty in the building itself, and while many are led to view it

H h

* The following is Kilburne's relation, (surv. p. 263) "In the time of King Edward the Confessor, Earl Godwine had a great deal of land in East Kent, near the Isle of Thanet; and this was defended from the sea by a great wall, and became (A. D. 1099) the possession of the abbot of St. Austins, in Canterbury, still retaining the name of Godwine's lands. Now the abbot being also owner of the parsonage of Tenterden, and having begun to build the fine tower, it took up so much of his thoughts, time and money; that he neglected the care of the walling and fencing against the sea, near the Isle of Thanet; and consequently on November the 3d of that year, 1099, the sea broke in, overflowed all the lands, and the place hath ever since been known by the name of *Godwine's Sands*."

Fuller in his *Worthies*, p. 65, saith, "that a collection of money to fence against the sea in East Kent, was placed in the hands of the bishop of Rochester; who very fairly appropriated it to the building of this steeple; which it seems many people had much set their hearts upon."

And G. Sandys in his notes on Ovid's *Métamorphoses*, p. 281. relates the story much in the same way. But "*Twine* tells us," says Dr. Harris, "that the ancient name of the place now called Godwin's Sands was *Lomea*; and that it was once an island: but there is no such island mentioned in that accurate survey contained in Domesday book, nor any account there or elsewhere of any authority of Earl Godwine's having had any such lands in East Kent; which could not well have been omitted in our ancient writings, if it had been certainly so; and as to the name of *Godwine's Sands*, our learned and judicious Mr. Somner, in his *Roman Forts and Ports*, p. 24. takes it to have been a corruption from the British *Gwydn*, which signifies a soft but yet a tenacious soil: and if it ever was called *Lomea*, as *Twine* in his book *de Rebus Albtanicis* saith it was, he thinks that name might come from the Saxons *Lam*, (whence our English *Lame*) of the same signification with the British *Gwydn*. And instead of the sea's overflowing it, as is supposed in the latter end of King William the II. or the beginning of King Henry the 1. Mr. Somner judges, that it was rather *left bare and deserted* by the sea, in that great inundation, which drowned a great part of *Flanders*, and the low countries about that time: (Gerald. Itin.) and though at

as an object of curiosity, connected with these idle tales, none have taken the smallest pains to place its merits and its claims to attention on a more solid and reasonable foundation. To

first, or all at once, it might not become a very dangerous shoal, yet it might easily grow to be so by degrees, and become worse and worse, by those inundations being continued in the *low countries*. I can't therefore, you see, agree, that the reasons given by *Kilburne, Fuller, &c.* for the rise of that proverb, *That Tenterden Steeple was the cause of the rise of Godwine's Sands*; and I think that no one that sees it, will conclude that the tower itself is of so ancient a date; it must therefore pass as it hath done for an extravagant saying; which perhaps was only brought in, to expose some forced consequence in reasoning: by which a man might say, *you may as well tell me that the building of Tenterden Steeple was the cause of Godwine's Sands, as that your conclusion can be inferred from those premises,*"

To the preceding may be added the following from the dialogues of Sir Thomas More, from which it appears, this *poor Steeple* has been accused of further mischief, of having occasioned the decay of *SANDWICH HAVEN*. At an assembly of "old folk of the countre," says this author, "they began fyrst to ensearche what thinge had been the occasion that so good a haven was in so few yerys so soore decayed," &c. At length, as 'dyvers men alledged dyvers causes,' "there started up one good old father, and said, ye maysters, say every man what he wyll, cha (I have) marked this matter as well as sum other, and by——I wote how it waxed noughte well ynoughte: for I knew good, I have marked, so chawe when it began to wax wors.'——'And what hath hurt it good father?' quod those gentlemen. 'By my fayth, Maysters,' quod he, 'yonder same *Tenterden* stepell, and nothyng ellys, that, by the masse, sholde 'twere a fayre fysh-pole.' 'Why hath the stepell hurt the haven, good father?' quod they. 'Nay, by'r Lady, Maysters,' quod he, ych cannot tell you well why, but chote well yt hath: for by——I knew that a good haven tyll the stepell was bylded, and by the Mary masse, cha marked yt never throve synnys."

Having collected thus much, it may now be proper to examine, what degree of truth, does, or may possibly attach to these relations. The story given by *Kilburne*, (though that which is best known and on which the vulgar proverb is principally grounded), is really too ridiculous and absurd to deserve much of our notice. That the flats now called *Godwine Sands* were ever enclosed and under cultivation, cannot fairly be presumed from any evidence, that can be brought in favor of the supposition; on the contrary, there is much more reason, even from the authorities quoted above, to con-

the antiquary it is valuable as a specimen of the refined taste and ingenuity of the times in which it was raised; and to the artist it is not less valuable, on account of its pleasing outline

H h 2

clude, that these shoals have rather been thrown up by the sea, than snatched by its inroads from the main land. Be this as it may, it is certain, that if the inundation which is said to have occasioned this mischief did really occur, and at the time mentioned by Kilburne; (1099) still it could have had no concern whatever with this *steeple*, which is of much more recent date, as must on the slightest inspection be evident to any one at all conversant with the architecture of the middle ages: but lest this assertion should be supposed to rest on no sufficient foundation, it will not be irrelevant to our purpose, in order to remove objections, to offer in this place a brief sketch of that style of architecture to which this structure belongs, and which (though very improperly), is called *GOTHIC*.

The style of architecture in use in England for some ages prior to the conquest, and about a century subsequent to that period, was the Saxon, an uncouth imitation of the Roman manner, whose chief characteristics were its semicircular arches and massive pillars. This style was not wholly laid aside until the reign of Henry III. though the *pointed arch*, the chief peculiarity of the modern style of building, was known and had been *partially* introduced into our religious edifices as early as the reign of the former Henry II. in whose time the west end of the Old Temple church, London, was built, and in which the earliest specimen, perhaps, of this innovation is to be found, if we except the small sharp pointed windows formed by the interlacing of the range of semicircular arches in the church of St. Cross, at Winchester, erected by De Blois, in the reign of King Stephen, and to which is ascribed the *origin* of this style. But though the *pointed arch* had been thus early introduced, the numerous peculiarities of gothic architecture, which marked its progress in after times, and now serve to stamp the date of particular structures with tolerable precision, affix to TENTERDEN STEEPLE a much more recent date. Before the reign of Edward I. the *ramified window*, one distinguishing characteristic of the absolute gothic was not in use, nor the canopy or weathering placed over the external openings of buildings of this kind, erected after that time; it is therefore certain that the building of Tenterden steeple, could not have taken place, at any time *prior* to the reign of Edward I. presuming on the above premises only; but when we take into account, the elegance of its outline, the delicacy of its mouldings, and its pinnacles enriched with crockets, and finials, &c. there can

and the interest it adds to the general scenery of this part of the Weald. In the tower are eight bells, and a set of musical chimes.

In the church, which contains numerous memorials of the former inhabitants of the place, was anciently a celebrated altar dedicated to St. John the Baptist; and in the arch of the doorway going into the bell loft, a *noted dropping stone*, but which has ceased to drop for many years. "By the dropping of it, part of a stone, or two stones rather, were carried off, leaving a considerable rift or hollow where the stones were joined. Upon the water drying in 1720, where it fell underneath, the stone hardened and grew slippery, being probably of the nature of the stelaetical water in the peak of Derbyshire, at Pools-hole." (Hasted).

Thomas Petlesden, Esq. by will in 1462, appears to have been buried in the chancel of St. Catherine, and gave one hundred marks to the steeple here, to be paid out of his land, &c. as long as it was a *werking*.

"The church of Tenterden was part of the antient possessions of the monastery of St. Augustine, to which it was appropriated in 1259 on condition of a proper portion being assigned for the maintenance of a perpetual vicar of it; and the official of the Archbishop, on an inquisition concerning this vicarage, made his return that it then consisted in all

he no hesitation in placing it as low down as the reign of Henry VI, and this conclusion is strengthened and indeed confirmed by the legacy of Thomas Petlesden above recited; and will at the same time bring the story of SANDWICH HAVEN much more within the pale of probability, than the former, as to the GOODWIN SANDS, related by Kilburne.

Because the arms of St. Augustine's monastery to which this church was appropriated in the reign of Henry III. (1259) are to be found on this steeple, it has been concluded by some that it must have been erected in that reign, but this by no means follows, for though they became possessed of this church at the time mentioned, it should be remembered that it remained with that monastery until its dissolution in the 30th of Henry VIII.

tythes, obventions and oblations belonging to the church; except the tythes of sheaves, corn and hay, of which latter the vicar should receive yearly four loads from the abbot and convent, and that it was then valued at eighteen marks and more per annum."

With the abbey of St. Augustine this church continued until the general suppression of religious houses, when with the manor appendant it came into the hands of the crown and in the 33d of Henry VIII. they were settled on the dean and chapter of Canterbury. Sir Edward Hales, Bart. is the lessee of the parsonage, in which family it has continued since the year 1640, but the advowson of the vicarage is held by the dean and chapter.

A modus has been established in this parish, in the lieu of small tythes.

TUDELEY, which in Domesday is written TIVELELE, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, THUDELEI lies between the parishes of Capel and Tunbridge, and is a place but little known or frequented, in appearance it differs but little from the adjoining parish of Capel, of which a description has already been given in a former part of the work, and to which it is only necessary to refer. The village and church are placed near the southern boundary of it, and a little removed southward is a small hamlet called CROOKHURST; but neither this latter or the village itself contains any thing worthy of particular notice. The soil here is generally moist, and though of heavy tillage, well adapted to the growth of wheat, as also to the production of large Timber, especially of Oak. The roads in this neighbourhood, are, the greater part of the year, very indifferent.

Tudeley formed part of the vast possessions, with which William the Conqueror, enriched his half brother Odo,* Bishop

* Odo half brother to William the Conqueror, was Bishop of Balcanx.

of Baieux, afterwards created Earl of Kent. In the Survey of Domesday, under the general title of his lands, it is thus entered :

In Wachelesion hundred, Richard de Tonbridge holds of the Bishop of Baieux Tivedele. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is one carucate, and there is in demesne, and a church, and wood for the panage of two hogs. It is and was worth fifteen shillings. Eddeva held it of the King.

The Survey of Domesday was taken about the year 1080 and on the disgrace of the Bishop which happened within four years afterwards, the whole of his possessions, were seized by the King.

The principal manor in this parish is BADSELL which formerly was in the possession of a family of the same surname ; from them it descended to the STIDULFS and subsequently to the FANES ; the first of whom Richard Fane, Esq. of Tudeley, died possessed of it in the 32d year of Henry the VIII. and lies buried in the chapel of this church, which he caused to be made. The Fanes were afterwards Earls of Westmoreland,

and the first Earl of Kent of Norman blood ; he took arms against his nephew William Rufus, in behalf of his brother Robert ; and being made prisoner upon the surrender of the castle of Rochester, was confiscated and banished by the King. Speed's chron. and Cam. Brit.

Odo was joined in this conspiracy by his brother Robert, Earl of Montaigne, and several other nobles, partly from envy of the growing power and influence of Lanfranc and partly from the conviction that it would not long be in their power to preserve their allegiance to two masters. And concluding that under the present arrangement they must necessarily resign either their ancient patrimony or their new acquisitions, they readily engaged in a formal conspiracy to dethrone the King. Odo and his brother seized the fortresses of Pevensey and Rochester, but the King knowing the danger of delay immediately invested these places and successively reduced them by famine. At the instance of the Earl of Chester and others he was prevailed on to spare the lives of the rebels, but confiscated all their estates and banished them the kingdom.

and in this family Badsell continued down to John Fane, Earl of Westmoreland who died in 1762, by the limitations of whose will, Badsell with the rest of his Kentish estates came into the possession of the Right Hon. Thomas Lord le Despencer.

KIPPINGS CROSS, was anciently and for many hundred years (according to Harris) the inheritance and seat of a family of the name of KIPPING, which were famous at Brenchley, as well as at this place. But in the reign of King Charles I. it ended in two daughters, who both married into the family of Darell.

The church (dedicated to ALL SAINTS) was almost wholly rebuilt a few years since. It comprises a nave and chancel, and has at the west end a square brick tower, in which are three bells. On the north side of the chancel stands an altar tomb, with three ionic columns, supporting a regular entablature. The parsonage, (a small genteel residence now building by the Hon. W. J. Stapleton, the present vicar,) stands a little removed from the church westward.

The patronage of this church, was about the year 1239, given by Richard de Theudele, and others the then patrons of it, to the prior and canons of Tunbridge. This grant was confirmed by the Bishop, with licence to appropriate it to their own use, on the death or resignation of John, then rector of it, and in the mean time that they should receive yearly half a marc from it: but the vicarage was not endowed till the year 1398.

On the suppression of the lesser monasteries, the appropriation and advowson of this vicarage, as part of the possessions of the priory of Tunbridge, were granted to Cardinal Wolsey towards the endowment of his college at Oxford, but did not long remain with the college, as on the disgrace of the Cardinal in 1529, they again reverted to the crown, and in the 1st year of the reign of Edward VI. were granted to Sir Walter Hendley, at the yearly rent of 6s. 3d $\frac{1}{2}$. to hold *in capite* by Knight's service. By Helen, second daughter of Sir

Walter Hendley, the parsonage and advowson of Tudeley were carried in marriage to Sir Thomas Fane of Burston in Hunting in which family it continued until the year 1762, when together with *Badsell* and the whole of the Kentish estates of John Earl of Westmoreland, they came by will, to the Right Hon. Lord le Despencer, the present owner.

The parsonage pays a fee-farm rent to the crown of £s. 3½ yearly.

TUNBRIDGE

Is situated thirty miles S. E. of London, within an extensive tract called the *Lowy** of Tunbridge, in old latin records *Districtus Leueæ de Tunbridge* and in the records of Domesday *Leuea Ricardi de Tonebrige*; being at the period of that survey in the possession of Richard Fitz Gilbert, who had assumed the appellation of '*Richard de Tonebrige*' on becoming possessed of this estate. These lands had been wrested from the see of Canterbury, during the vacancy that followed the deposition of Archbishop Stigand, by the rapacious Odo, Bishop of Baieux; but on the promotion of Lanfranc, that indefatigable prelate and 'rigid defender of the prerogatives of his station' and zealous promoter of the interests of papacy, framed and forwarded an earnest remonstrance on the encroachments of Odo to the King, then in Normandy, who aware of the rapacious and impetuous disposition of his brother, heard the complaint favourably, and immediately ordered it to be brought to trial, which accordingly took place in 1076 on Pennenden heath.† On this occasion the eloquence of

* 'The term is derived from the Norman-french, and signifies an attempt jurisdiction round the castle, chief mansion, or religious house, to which it appertained.' Brayley's Hist. of Kent.

† Lambarde gives the following account of the trial between Lanfranc and Odo:

Lanfranc, aided by the justice of his cause, prevailed against the power and influence of his opponent; but as Odo had given the town and castle of Tunbridge to his kinsman Rich-

I i

Odo was found to be of a nature so busie, greedie and ambitious, that he moved many tragedies within this realme, and was in the end thrown from the stage, and driven into Normandie. During his abode in Kent, he so incroached upon the lands and privileges of the Archbishopricke of Canterbury, and Bishopricke of Rochester, that Lanfranc (being promoted to that see of dignitie, and finding the want) complained to the King, and obtained, that with his good pleasure they might make trial of their right with him. To the which end also, the same King gave commission to Goiffred (then Bishop of Constance in Normandie) to represent his own person, for hearing of the controversie: caused Egelric, the Bishop of Chichester, (an aged man, singularly commended for his skill in the laws and customes of the realme), to be brought thether in a wagon, for his assistance in counsell; commanded Haymo (the Sheriffe of Kent) to summon the whole countie to give in evidence; and charged Odo, his brother, to be present at such time and place as should be notified unto him. Pinnenden heath (lying almost in the midst of the shyre, and therefore very indifferent for the assembly of the whole countie) was the appointed place, and thereunto not only the whole number of the moste expert men of this Shyre, but of sundry other countries also, came in great frequencie, and spent three whole days in debate of these Bishops' controversies, concluding in the end, that Lanfranc and the Bishop of Rochester, should be restored to the possession of Deding, Stoce, Preston, Danitune, and sundrie other lands that Odo had withholden: and that neyther the Earl of Kent, nor the King himself, had right to claim any thing in any of the landes of the Archbishop, saving only these three customes, which concerne the King's highe waies that leade from one cite to another: that is to say, that if any of the Archbishop's tesaunts should digge in such a highe way, or fell a tree crosse the same, to the hindrance of comon passage, and be taken with the manner, or convinced thereof by Lawe, hee should make amendes to the King therefore. And likewise when he did commit blood-shed, man-slaughter, or any other criminal offence in such a way, and were deprehended doing the fault, that the amends thereof belonged to the King also: but in this latter case, if hee were not taken with the manner, but departed without pledge taken of him, that then the trial and the amends, pertained to the Archbishop himself, and

ard Fitz Gilbert, who was unwilling to resign them to the Archbishop, a compromise was entered into through the mediation of the King, by which the Archbishop received in lieu of these possessions the castle and demesnes of Brionne in Normandy, of which Fitz Gilbert was Earl.* The expedient adopted on this occasion to satisfy both parties, was, to girt the demesnes of Brionne with a string and apply the same to the lands round the castle of Tunbridge. Though there is reason to believe this fortress was not erected prior to the Domesday Survey, it is evident it must have been built shortly after, as on the death of the Conqueror, Richard de Tonbridge having favored the cause of Robert (eldest son of the deceased monarch) was besieged in his *castle of Tunbridge* by William Rufus, and on its surrender, swore allegiance to the young King. This nobleman fell at length in the defence of the usurper Stephen, in Wales, and was succeeded in his English possessions by Gilbert de Tonbridge, whose eldest son and successor (Richard) assumed the surname of CLARE, and was the first of his family on whom the Earldom of Hertford was conferred. His second brother was created Earl of Pembroke, in the 3d year of King Stephen; and Walter, another brother, was founder of the abbey of Tintern, in Wales. The above Richard, Earl of Clare, founded the priory of Tunbridge for monks of the premonstratensian order, and dedicated it to St.

that the King had not to medle therewith. On the other side also, they agreed, that the Archbishop had many privileges throughout all the landes of the King, and of the Earle, as namely, the amerciament of bloodshed from such time as they cease to say Alleluia in the church service, till the octaves of Easter; and at the least one half of everie amerciament due for the unlawful begitting of children. Per. p. 178. edit. 1576.

* The above rests on the authorities of Dugdale and Hasted, but the circumstance is differently related both as to time and persons by Lambard in his peramb. of Kent, p. 329 and 330.

Mary Magdalen;* his son Gilbert gave the church of Tonebridge to the monks of Lewes, in Sussex; and Roger his brother was also a liberal benefactor to the clergy; facts among others, which shew the consideration in which the clergy were held in these times, and the influence they had acquired over the minds and conduct of men. In the person of Gilbert de Clare, (grandson of the above Roger) the Earldoms of Gloucester and Hertford were united, and continued with his descendants until the reign of Edward II. when by the death of Gilbert de Clare, in the 7th year of that reign, without issue, the titles became extinct and a partition of his estates was made between his three sisters, his coheirs.†

"A constant contest subsisted between these potent chieftains and the see of Canterbury, from the time of that haughty prelate Becket, until the reign of Henry III. when an accord was made; by which it was agreed, that the Earls of Clare and Gloucester should hold Tunbridge and its Lowy by the grand sergeantry of being chief butlers and high stewards at the instalment of the metropolitans, and grant them wardship of their children. Whenever one of them attended upon the solemnization of inthronization, he was to receive, for the service of steward, seven robes of scarlet,

I i 2

* "Richard de Clare, by his foundation-charter to this priory situated within his manor of Tonebrigge, gave to the canons regular in it, ten marks, to be received yearly from his manor of Tonebrigge, and 5*l.* and 5*d.* to be received from all the *assarts*, old as well as new, of his land called Dencemannes-brock, in Yalding, and likewise yearly one hundred and twenty hogs in his forest of Tunbridge, free from pannage; and that the canons should have two horses (*summarios*) every day, to carry the dead-wood home to them, from out of his woods nearest and most convenient to them; and one stag yearly to be taken by the Earl's men." *Hasted's Hist.* vol. V. p. 238.

† He fell at the battle of Bannocksbourne, near Strivelin, while commanding the vanguard of the King's army, and was buried in the Abbey-church of Tewksbury.

thirty gallons of wine, fifty pounds of wax for the use of his own lights on the feast, the livery of hay and corn for eighty horses for two nights, and the dishes and salts which should be placed before the prelate at the first course of the feast; and when the nobleman should take his leave, entertainment for three days, at the expense of the Archbishop and his successors, at their nearest manors by the four quarters of Kent, wheresoever the peer should make his election, so that he did not go thither with more than fifty horse; and when the castle went into the hands of the Stafford family, we find that these services were retained; but instead of provisions, it was, in the fourteenth century, both to the De Clares and the Staffords, compounded for a sum of money, generally two hundred marks, and the silver-gilt cup with which the Earl should serve before the Archbishop. So late as the reign of Henry VIII. we find Edward, Duke of Buckingham, executing in person the office of Steward at the inthronization of Archbishop Warham; and the butlership by his deputy, Sir Thomas Bouchier. These are traits of character in our history that may be deemed worthy preservation, as they mark the customs of former periods.

“Tunbridge castle was alternately the scene of war, and the abode of pleasure, but ever of consequence. Gilbert surnamed Rufus, Earl of Clare, Gloucester and Hertford, joining the rebellious Barons against their sovereign Henry III. was besieged by prince Edward, the King's son, during which the garrison set fire to and burnt the town, to prevent its being useful to the Prince; who, however, took the castle, and the Countess of Gloucester, but gave her liberty: he nevertheless put a garrison in the castle. Some time afterwards, Gilbert, convinced of the badness of the cause in which he was engaged, joined the royal standard; and in reward for his returning loyalty, received again the possession of this castle. Here it was that he entertained Edward, then become his sovereign, upon his return from Palestine. The reception was splendid;

and though the King was desirous of reaching his capital, yet he remained here many days; and so acceptable did he become to the King, that, having divorced his wife for her ill conduct, Edward gave him his own daughter, Joan of Acres; who, as part of her jointure, had this castle settled upon her, which she made the place of her residence in her widowhood, and on her second marriage, with Ralph de Monthermer, a private gentleman in her service, whose presumption in marrying a Princess, at first drew upon him the vengeance of offended majesty; but by the intercession of the Bishop of Durham, Edward received him into favor; and his merit was such, that he obtained his confidence and affection: from this second alliance, have descended many noble houses. We must here observe, that Prince Edward, afterwards Edward II. also resided at Tunbridge in the 22d year of his father's reign, when he was left supreme governor of the kingdom, whilst the elder Edward was in Flanders.

“Upon the death of Gilbert de Clare, the last Earl of Gloucester of this family, in the partition of his vast estates to his three sisters and co-heirs, Tunbridge castle and manor came to Hugh de Audley, in right of his wife Margaret, the second of them, till joining with some discontented Barons, this castle was seized by Edward II. who made Bartholomew de Badlesmere, governor: but he also traiterously joining the malecontents, gave the custody of it to Henry de Cobham, whose deputy Crevequer, intending to follow the standard of revolt, and deliver up his charge to the rebels, was ordered to be hanged, and this castle, the scene of his treason to be razed to the ground: it fortunately escaped, having been one of the four which Edward soon after fixed upon as safe receptacles to deposit the records and charters of the kingdom in; and in the following reign, Hugh de Audley was restored to favor, had the Earldom of Gloucester in right of his marriage given him, and was permitted to re-enjoy this castle. Margaret his only

daughter, took the castle and manor of Tunbridge to Ralph Lord Stafford, created Earl of Stafford, and elected Knight of the Garter, who died here. His descendants rose to a rank that eclipsed every other subject, having the Earldoms of Buckingham, Hereford, Stafford, Northampton and Perch, with many Baronies vested in them, and at length were raised to ducal honors, and made hereditary constables of England. This castle was afterwards forfeited to the crown at the ruin of the last Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, when this family, every way so great, fell, to rise no more."*

"The castle and manor of Tunbridge, with its appendages, thus coming to the crown by the attainder of the Duke of Buckingham, remained during that reign in the King's hands, (Henry VIII). and till King Edward VI. in his 4th year, granted them to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, among other premises, by the description of his lordship, manor and castle of Tunbridge, and his two parks, called the Posterne and Cage (the former being situated southward, and the latter northward of the town) and his forests and chases of north-frith and south-frith, with their members and appurtenances, to hold *in capite* by Knight's service;"† but they were shortly after, reconveyed to the King in exchange for other estates. In the succeeding reign, a grant of them was made to Cardinal Pole, for his life, and one year after, as he should by will determine, but dying intestate on the very day of the Queen's decease (Mary) these estates immediately reverted to the crown, and by Elizabeth in her first year, were granted by letters patent to her kinsman Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon. From this family, by marriage, they descended to the *Berkleys*, who remained possessed of them but a very short time, for in the beginning of the reign of James I. they were by purchase become the property of Sir Peter Vanlore 'a wealthy

* Environs of London. Kent.

† Hasted.

merchant,' after the death of whose son, without male issue, these estates with others, devolved to his three daughters, and five sisters, agreeable to the will of the former; when after a protracted litigation of nearly thirty years a partition of them took place. In the year 1739 the manor,* castle, and part of the demesne lands were purchased by John Hooker, Esq. (of a family originally from Hampshire), whose son Thomas Hooker, Esq. in the year 1793 alienated the whole of this estate to his brother in law, William Woodgate, Esq. of Summerhill.

The remains of TUNBRIDGE CASTLE† though inconsiderable in extent, are still interesting and of much picturesque importance in the different views of the town; they consist chiefly of the inner gateway, a quadrangular building in tolerable preserva-

* A court leet and a court baron is regularly held for this manor. There were formerly some payments made for castle-guard to it; but they have been long since disused, a few payments excepted, which seem to be made for encroachment on the lord's waste. *Ibid.*

† "The fortifications seem to have consisted of two spacious round towers, of about seventy feet diameter, communicating with each other by a strong high wall of sixty feet, from east to west, these were united to the great keep on the top of the mount, the base of which is the circle of an acre, and had a covered way from it to the gateway of the castle, from which there was another covered way over the chapel to the south-east tower. The governor's domestic apartments were in the area, parallel to the south wall, which overlooks the river, and unites the two towers at the extremities of it. There were formerly three moats which encircled this castle, the innermost of which was made by a new stream dug for that purpose, now the principal one of the Medway, over which was a stone bridge, which was joined by a strong broad wall of stone to the south-east round tower of those above-mentioned, and kept up a large head of water in the moat which was between the gateway and the barbican, or watch tower. The other two moats inclosed the then town of Tunbridge, the outermost of them had a drawbridge over it at the north end of the town. These moats were capable of being filled or emptied at pleasure, by a large wear and bank, which extended the space of two miles, towards Lyghe." See *Archæol.* vol. VI. p. 27.

tion flanked by massive round towers, a part of the outer walls, and the artificial mount on which was the *barbican*, or watch tower: the walls formerly inclosed six acres of ground. Adjoining the entrance, a residence was begun in the year 1793 by Mr. Hooker, who before its completion, disposed of his right in the estate to his brother in law, as above stated, but not before he had given abundant proofs of his contempt of feudal grandeur, and left a monument for his own want of taste.

The town of TUNBRIDGE in early times was little more than the suburbs of the castle, and from its proximity and alliance was subject to the same alternations and vicissitudes as that important fortress: but while the castle, (then the terror of the subject and a check on the power and tyranny of the monarch) has been dwindling into insignificance, presenting in its fallen state a proof of the fallacy and uncertainty of human power; the town, freed from its former thralldom and enjoying the common advantages of a civilized community, has risen into comparative importance. It consists principally of one good street of a considerable length, containing many handsome houses, and is cross'd by the Medway in five streams, over each of which a stone bridge has been thrown. The principal, and at present the only navigable branch, is that, dug to form the inner moat of the castle, over which, on the foundations of the former one, a stone bridge of three arches was erected in 1775, and immediately below it, is a spacious wharf for the accommodation of the trade on the river, now become considerable. Tunbridge, from possessing a good market, a pleasant and healthy situation, and withall an inviting air of cleanliness, is become the abode of many independent persons of good property. It appears formerly to have enjoyed the privilege of sending members to parliament, but only one instance of the exercise of this privilege is to be found on record; to the parliament held at Westminster, in the 23d year

of Edward I. John German and John Martin were returned for this place.* Tunbridge has given TITLE to several illustrious families; those of Buckingham, Clanrickard and Rochford; the title of Viscount Tunbridge being at this time attached to the Earldom of Rochford.

THE PRIORY of Tunbridge, founded by Richard de Clare as before stated, was consumed by fire in the year 1351, but was shortly after re-edified and continued, until the suppression of the lesser monasteries in the year 1525, when it was granted, with seventeen others, towards the endowment of Wolsey's intended colleges at Ipswich and Oxford; at the time of its suppression its gross annual revenues amounted to 169l. 10s. 3d. From the foundations, still visible, it appears to have been extensive; part of the refectory, and the chapel are still remaining; the latter is converted into a barn. The principal charitable establishment here, is the FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, founded and endowed by Sir Andrew Judde, a native of this town, and Lord Mayor of London in the 5th year of King Edward VI. Towards the support of this establishment he bequeathed by his will, lands and tenements in London, of the then annual value of 56l. 0s. 4d. vesting the same in the 'master, wardens, and commonalty of Skinners' in trust, for the maintenance of the school; the freedom of which should be limited to the boys of the town and country adjacent, '*Juvenum in villa et patria adjacenti.*' An annual visit is made to the school in the month of May by the company of Skinners, attended by some respectable clergyman of London, as an examiner of the progress made by the pupils; this visit and examination is attended with much ceremony, and honorary rewards are distributed to those who merit them; the spirit of emulation excited by this yearly exhibition is manifest in the

K k

* Willis's Notitia Parl. p. 26.

reputation which the pupils of this seminary have always maintained. The masters have generally been men of considerable learning, and such is likely to be the case, while the emoluments of the situation are so considerable: * the late head of the school, Dr. Vicesimus Knox, who succeeded his father in 1778, was a man of extensive literary reputation and acknowledged talents. Several *exhibitions* to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge have been appropriated to this school, by different benefactors, the principal of whom was Sir Thomas Smith, Knight, a grandson of Sir Andrew Judde.†

At the north end of the town, in the high road to London, is a commodious stone causeway, raised at the expence of Mr. John Willford, citizen of London, about the middle of the reign of Henry VIII. On the Lamberhurst road about one mile and a half south-eastward of Tunbridge, is the delightfully situated residence of Major Woodgate, called SOMERHILL, an extensive edifice erected in the reign of James I. and still strongly characteristic of the fashion of that time; the situation of it is commanding, and the adjacent country highly picturesque. Attached to it, is the manor of *South-frith*, anciently a chase or forest belonging to the Earls of Clare, whose bailiffs, according to Dr. Harris, made Somerhill the place of their residence. This seat was erected, and the name of Somerhill given to it by Richard de Burgh, Earl of Clanrickard, who in the 22d year of Queen Elizabeth, was created baron of Somerhill and Viscount Tunbridge; and early in the reign of Charles

* "Though the annual income arising from the respective endowments of this school is very great, the number of boys educated on the foundation is very few: and this may be adduced as another instance of the necessity of a parliamentary revision of our ancient charitable establishments." Brayley's Kent, p. 1293.

† For a more minute and comprehensive account of TUNBRIDGE FREE SCHOOL, see Hasted's Hist. vol. V. p. 241.—8. In which work is a long table of charitable bequests to the poor of the town and neighbourhood.

I. Earl of St. Albans. He married Frances, Countess of Essex, the daughter and sole heiress of Sir Francis Walsingham, whose first husband was the accomplished Sir Phillip Sydney; 'it is no wonder,' says Hasted, 'this lady married him (the Earl of Clanrickard) when Smollett says he was a very handsome gallant young nobleman, and very like the late Earl of Essex; insomuch,' he adds, 'that the Queen, then far advanced in years, made some advances to him, which he declined.' In the time of the commonwealth, SOMERHILL was seized on by the parliament, and granted to Robert Earl of Essex 'in recompence of his heroic valour, prudent conduct, and *unspotted fidelity* in that high and important command of Captain-general of their army;' and after his decease in 1646,* it was conferred on the Arch-traitor Bradshaw, president of their high court of justice, 'for his great service to his country;' who died possessed of it in 1659. The Woodgates became possessed of this estate, by purchase, about the year 1712.

About one mile and a half on the road from Tunbridge to the Wells, on the acclivity of QUARRY-HILL, is MARBLEDON, a castellated residence,† erected within these few years by James Burton, Esq. late high sheriff of the county; the situation and style of architecture are judiciously chosen and the grounds about it well wooded and agreeably disposed.

The church (dedicated to ST. PETER and ST. PAUL), stands

K k 2

* This rebel Lord is supposed to have died by poison, and the supposition will not appear unreasonable, though unsupported by evidence, when we take into consideration the covetous and blood-thirsty disposition of his successor.

† The stone of which this house is built, was brought from Penshurst, and formed part of the once splendid residence of the Sydney's at that place. A view of MARBLEDON is given in "The Beauties of England and Wales" and in "Amsinck's account of Tunbridge-Wells and its vicinity."

on the east side of the road through the town, and though spacious, seems inadequate to the accommodation of so populous a neighbourhood: it contains nothing worthy of particular note, nor is the building itself entitled to further description. It was new pewed some years ago, by the liberality of Mr. Hooper. In the cemetery is a tomb of white marble, to the memory of the celebrated Anne Elliott, the actress, a native of this parish, on which are the following elegant lines:

Of matchless form, adorn'd with wit refined,
A feeling heart, and an enlighten'd mind;
Of softest manners, beauty's rarest bloom,
Here ELLIOTT lies and moulders in her tomb.
Oh blest with genius! early snatch'd away;
The muse that joyful mark'd thy op'ning ray,
Now, sad reverse! attends thy mournful bier,
And o'er thy relics sheds the gushing tear.
Here fancy oft' the hallowed mould shall tread,
Recall THEE living, and lament THEE dead:
Here friendship oft' shall sigh till life be o'er;
And death shall bid thy image charm no more.

TUNBRIDGE-WELLS, is the common appellation given to a large and populous hamlet lying in the several parishes of Tunbridge, Speldhurst and Frant, at the distance of thirty-six miles from London and between five and six from the town of Tunbridge: it is divided into four districts, MOUNT EPHRAIM, MOUNT PLEASANT, MOUNT SION, AND THE WELLS. The latter division is 'the centre of business and pleasure,' containing beside the *springs*, the public parades, taverns, market, assembly-rooms and shops. The chapel which is but a little removed from the walks, stands in the three parishes above mentioned,* and consequently in the two counties of Kent and Sussex: divine service is performed in it every day in the

* The pulpit in Speldhurst, the altar in Tunbridge, and the vestry in Frant. Hasted's Kent, vol. III. p. 276.

summer and three times a week the rest of the year. Much to the credit of the visitants, an extensive charity school for the education of youth of both sexes has been established and is liberally supported by the collections made at the chapel door about two or three times in the season. The trade of Tunbridge-Wells necessarily depends much on its visitants, yet this neighbourhood carries on an extensive and *exclusive* trade in a vast variety of small useful articles, comprehended under the term of *Tunbridge Ware*, which from hence is distributed to all parts of the kingdom; employing a great number of hands and displaying no inconsiderable share of ingenuity and mechanical skill. Though this place owes its origin to its valuable springs,* and is still visited by numbers on the score of health, yet there is reason to believe that the majority of the company are drawn here more for the sake of pleasure and dissipation, than from any consideration of the benefit to be derived from its waters. The facilities of intercourse afforded at these places of fashionable resort, and the studied attention paid to the pleasures and necessities both of the gay and the infirm, will readily account for the great influx of company which annually resort to them, as soon as the gaieties and amusements of the metropolis are suspended, or the advances

* The water of these springs is "a light and pure chalybeate, which instantly searches the most remote recesses of the human frame, warms and invigorates the relaxed constitution, restores the weakened fibres to their due tone and elasticity, removes those obstructions to which the minuter vessels of the body are liable, and is consequently adapted to most cold chronical disorders, lowness of spirits, weak digestions, and nervous complaints." Hasted, vol. III. p. 282. Dr. Rowzee of Ashford, wrote a treatise on the nature and virtues of these waters, printed in 1671; and Dr. Patrick Madan, published a philosophical and medical essay on their properties in 1687. In 1725, "A directory for drinking of those waters," was published in 8vo. by Lewis Rouse, M. D. and subsequently, some valuable observations on their 'use and abuse,' were offered to the public by Dr. Hugh Smith.

of the warm weather suggest the expediency of removing, for a while, to a more genial climate and a purer air. The easy distance of Tunbridge-Wells from London, gives it a decided preference in the estimation of many, to any other watering place, and must, while it retains this advantage, insure it a considerable portion of public favor and patronage, even were its attractions less than they are.*

U.

ULCOMB. At the time of the conquest *Olecumbe*, was held of the Archbishop of Canterbury, by William Earl of Ewe, in Normandy, by Knight's service; to him succeeded the family of St. Leger, who appear to have been seated here 'till towards the middle of the sixteenth century, about which time it was alienated to Henry Clerke, Esq. member of parliament and recorder of Rochester; from which name it has but lately passed to that of *Kinnersley*, in Staffordshire. Since the alienation of this estate by Sir William St. Leger, eldest son of Sir Warham St. Leger, who unfortunately fell in Ireland in an encounter with Hugh Macquire and his followers, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; the family have been principally resident in that country, where they have become en-

* It has been thought advisable to be brief in the account of this place, so much having been said of it by others, to whose labors those who are desirous of further information are referred, rather than to swell the present work beyond the limits at first prescribed. Beside the above tracts on the virtues and use of the waters, are the following historical and descriptive works. "The History of Tunbridge-Wells;" by Thomas Bengé Burr. 8vo. 1766 London. "A general History of Tunbridge-Wells, and its Environs, historical and descriptive;" by the Rev. Mr. Onely, 8vo. 1770. "Description of Tunbridge-Wells, and its vicinity" by P. Amsinck 4to. with numerous well executed plates; and "The Tunbridge-Wells Guide," 12mo. published by Mr. Sprange, Bookseller, at the Wells.

nobled, by the title of Viscount Doneraile. The above Sir William, who, succeeded his father in the government of Munster, made a member of the privy council of that kingdom, and Sergeant Major General of the Irish forces; is represented as, "a Gentleman of great merit, valour and integrity." The first of the family settled here, was Sir Robert St. Leger, who accompanied the ambitious Norman to England, and the same that, according to tradition, supported him with his hand on his alighting on the coast of Sussex. To the grandson of the former, who is supposed to have lived here in the reign of Henry II. succeeded, Rafe St. Leger, who, says Philipott "is registered in the roll of those Kentish gentlemen who accompanied Richard I. to the siege of Acon; and as the inscription on his leaden shroud, in the vault of this church does signify, was engaged in the holy quarrel fifteen years. Another Rafe St. Leger, and Hugh St. Leger, were *Recognitores Magnæ Assisæ*, in the second of King John. Sir Rafe de St. Leger, Sir Joseph de St. Leger, and Sir Thomas de St. Leger, were with Edward I. at the siege of Carlaverock, in the 28th year of his reign, and for their signal achievements there, received the order of knighthood. Indeed in times subsequent to this there was scarce any noble and generous undertaking, but the annals of our English history represent a *St. Leger* concerned and interested in it."*

In this parish are also the manors of **BOYCOT** and **KINGSNORTH** the former belonging to Nicholas Nicholas, Esq. and the latter, which, by King Edward VI. was granted to Sir Anthony St. Leger, Lord deputy of Ireland, &c. is become the property of the Rev. Sir Edward Filmer, Bart. of East Sutton.

The parish of Ulcomb adjoins westward to East Sutton, front which it differs little either in soil or situation; the vil-

* Villare Cantianum, p. 348.

lage with the PLACE-HOUSE and PARSONAGE, occupy the summit of those range of hills which partly form the northern boundary of the Weald, extending from the borders of Surry westward, to the parish of Hothfield near Ashford, in the east. The church (dedicated to ALL SAINTS), "anciently belonged to Christ church, Canterbury, and being taken from thence in the year 941, was restored by King Edmund. And about four hundred and thirty years after, was made a *collegiate church* by Stephen Langton, Archbishop, whose head had the title of *Arch-presbyter*."* It is now a single, undivided rectory in the patronage of the lords of the manor of Ulcomb. In this church, before the reformation, there was a *guild* or brotherhood, called the *fraternity of Corpus Christi*. The parsonage house was rebuilt by the Rev. Stringer Belcher, A. M. at an expence of upwards of 1000*l*. From this worthy divine, who left a most excellent character, are descended those of the same name, since resident in this parish. He died in December 1739, and lies buried in the church, in which are several brasses and other memorials of the *St. Legers* and their successors the *Clerkes*.



WAREHORNE, a part only of which is within the Weald, adjoins southward to Orlestone, the soil and situation of it being very similar to the latter, but esteemed less healthy, owing no doubt to its being more free from wood, consequently more under the influence of the gross atmosphere of the adjoining marshes, within the limits of which, part of the parish is situated. The village of Warehorne is built round a large green called the *LECON* or *LECTON*, on which is

* Harris's Hist. of Kent. p. 324.

a respectable looking house belonging to Mr. Thomas Hodges, and at Warehorne green, a little removed from the former is the PARSONAGE, and TINTON-HOUSE, the residence of Mr. Howland. HAM-STREET is partly within this parish, and at the distance of about a mile is HAMMILL-GREEN, a hamlet lying within the marsh, on the high road from Brenzet, Snave, &c. to the upland country. A narrow slip of land, part of Warehorne, extends northward between the parishes of Shadoxhurst and Orlestone, mostly underwood, and another slip stretches southward into the marsh to Brookland. That part of the parish of Warehorne above the marsh, is considered within the Weald.

Two annual fairs are kept here, the one at Ham-street green, on the 14th of May, and the other at Warehorne-green, on the 2d of October. The former is considered a pleasure fair, but at the latter there is generally a large display of cattle. The Earl of Thanet derives some emolument from the last of these.

Very early mention is made of this place; for King Egbert with his son Ethelwulf, (A. D. 820) gave to one Godwine, two plough-lands, in a place called by the English, *Warehornas*, situated among the marshes, and as the boundaries are expressed, extended on the east part southward over the river Limen, (Rother) unto the south saxon limits. "Archbishop Alphage, who afterwards became possessed of this manor (1010) gave it to Christ-church in Canterbury, towards the cloathing of the monks there, endowing it with the same liberties and privileges as their manor of Middleton. In the reign of King John it was held of the see of Canterbury by Knight's service, by Ansfrid de Dene, and in the succeeding reign by Richard de Bedeford. The latter in the 52d year of that reign (Henry III.) obtained the grant of a weekly market on Tuesdays, and a fair of three days at the feast of

St. Matthew, which grants were renewed and confirmed to him in the 8th year of Edward I. with the addition of *free-warren* within his demesne lands here. The Earl of Thanet is the present owner of this manor.

The MANOR OF TINTON, or as it written in Domesday TINTENTON, is a considerable manor in the southern part of the parish, which by the conqueror was given to Hugo de Montfort; on the voluntary exile of whose grandson of the same name, in the reign of King Henry I. his possessions came into the King's hands, when this manor was granted to Robert de Ver, constable of England, married to Adeliza, daughter of Hugh de Monfort, and they jointly in the early part of the reign of Henry II. having founded the priory of Horton,* gave this manor to it. It remained with the priory until its dissolution in the 27th of Henry VIII. The fee of the Manor of Tenton is become the property of Sir Edward Dering, Bart, but the court lodge and demesne lands, are in the family of Howland.

The manors of HAM AND CAPEL (the former of which gave name to this hundred), have the same owner as that of Orlesstone.

There is another manor in this parish, called PARKERS,

* "Horton priory" (in the parish of Monk's Horton), "was founded for Cluniac Monks, at the beginning of the reign of Henry II. by Robert de Ver. It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and St. John the Evangelist, and made subordinate to the priory of the same order at Lewes, in Sussex: but Edward III. in his 47th year, released it from this state of subjection, and made it independent. At the time of the dissolution of the lesser houses, its annual revenues were estimated at the gross sum of £111. 16s. 11d. and shortly afterwards, most of the buildings which seem to have covered an extensive plot of ground, were shamefully destroyed." A beautiful piece of ruin of the west entrance to the priory church is still remaining. The mouldings are singularly curious, particularly in the varieties exhibited in the zig-zag ornament. The situation is low, and almost secluded from observation by the contiguous woods. *Beauties of England, &c.* vol. VIII. p. 1131.

whose owners in early times assumed the surname of PARKER.

The church consists of a nave, side aisles and chancel, with a square brick tower at the west end, but contains nothing worthy of note. In the church-yard is a remarkable fine white-thorn, whose branches like those in the cemeteries at Orlestone, Woodchurch, &c. have been trained in an horizontal direction, supported by a double frame of wood-work, with seats, affording accommodation for forty or fifty persons. The branches of this thorn overspread an area of at least sixteen feet in diameter, the trunk is two feet in diameter, at the height of three or four feet from the ground.

WATERINGBURY. The village of Wateringbury stands on the high road from Tunbridge through Mereworth, to Maidstone in a pleasant and fertile district, abounding with corn, fruit and hops, and in a part of the country, that from the beauty of its scenery and the fertility of its soil, has been justly styled the "GARDEN OF KENT." The place is small, but contains several good houses, and is characterized by an inviting air of cheerfulness and comfort. The parish is about a mile and a quarter each way; it is bounded on the south-east by the Medway, and otherwise well watered by several clear streams, which have their rise near the PLACE-HOUSE, and uniting with the stream that flows from Mereworth, falls into that river near Bow-bridge.

There was till of late years, says Hasted, a singular, though a very ancient custom kept up, of electing a deputy to the *dumb borsholder of Chart*, as it was called, claiming liberty over fifteen houses in the precinct of Pizein-well; * every householder of which was formerly obliged to pay the keeper of this borsholder one penny yearly. This dumb borsholder was

L 1 2

* A hamlet on the Maidstone road, adjoining to Mereworth parish.

always first called at the court leet holden for the hundred of Twyford ; when its keeper, who was yearly appointed by that court held it up to his call, with a neckcloth or handkerchief put through the iron ring fixed at the top, and answered for it. This borsholder of Chart, and the court leet, has been discontinued about sixty years ; and the borsholder, who is put in by the quarter sessions for Wateringbury, claims over the whole parish.

The dumb borsholder was made of wood, about three feet and half an inch long, with an iron ring at the top, and four more by the sides, near the bottom, where it had a square iron spike fixed, four inches and a half long, to fix it in the ground, or on occasion to break open doors, &c. which was used to be done, without a warrant of any justice, on suspicion of goods having been unlawfully come by, and concealed in any of these fifteen houses.

It is not easy at this distance of time to ascertain the origin of this *dumb officer*. Perhaps it might have been made use of as a badge or ensign, by the officer of the market here. The last person who acted as deputy to it, was one Thomas Champard, a Blacksmith, whose heirs have it now in their possession.

The market, granted in the reign of King Edward II. above mentioned, is reported by tradition to have continued to be held here in a place called CHART GARDEN, now a wood near Pizein-well, in the south west part of this parish, in which wood there are to be seen foundations of walls and houses, and in it and the neighbouring lands are several draw-wells.

The MANOR of Wateringbury, which at the time of taking the survey of Domesday, formed part of the extensive possessions of the Bishop of Baieux, was in the reign of James I. purchased by Oliver Style, Esq. an ancestor of the present Baronet, who had served the office of sheriff of London, and

retiring to Wateringbury-place, there ended his days in the year 1622, leaving a son, (Thomas) his only surviving child, created a Baronet in the 3d year of Charles I. (anno 1627). The PLACE-HOUSE erected in the reign of Queen Anne, nearly on the scite of the more ancient mansion, is a substantial brick edifice, of the fashion of that period; it is situated at the western extremity of the village and but a short distance from the church, the spire of which is a pleasing object from thence. It is said to contain some original portraits of the family, among them, one of Sir William Style, Knight, of Ipswich, who was ambassador at Naples in the reign of Henry VII. and employed on embassies of importance. The present owner of this manor (Sir Thomas Style, Bart.) is also possessor of the manor of CANONS COURT in this parish, and of the ancient seat of the Codds, called PELICANS.

The church (dedicated to ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) consists of a nave and chancel, with a square tower at the west end, on which is an octagonal shingled spire, finished with a cross and weather vane. In one of the windows on the south side are some trifling remains of stained glass, the fragments of a representation of the decollation of St John; Hasted, also mentions there having been the portraits of King Edward III. and his Queen; but of these not a vestige at present remains. Within the walls are several memorials of the STYLE family, and in the cemetery a very costly one to Sir Oliver Style, Knight, who died unmarried, in the year 1703 at the age of forty-six.* By this monument stands a venerable yew-tree, under whose umbrageous canopy an accommodation seat has been placed, and near it, on the south front of the steeple, a portland stone tablet is affixed, with the following inscription;

* "Sir Oliver Style, Knight; whilst resident at Smyrna, was at dinner with the lady he had engaged to marry, and a party of friends, when the apartment they were in was swallowed up by an earthquake; and he himself was the only person of the whole that escaped the yawning gulph."

Near this place on the 20th day of March, 1797, was deposited the body of Edward Greensted, who after a virtuous and well spent life of 83 years, "Dropt like ripe fruit into its mother's lap."

and below, these tributary lines:

"Here rests a man, who, plain without offence,
Of self taught science, drawn from native sense;
Displayed a striking lesson to mankind
Of tranquil goodness in a sphere confined;
Who long time fill'd with strict and watchful care
His humble station in this house of prayer,
And swayed with gentle and with equal rule,
The little sceptre of his village school;
While patient, cheerful, and resign'd he sought
Himself to practice what his precepts taught.
Then reader learn, while pensive o'er his dust,
To be like him devout, and meek, and just;
Whate'er thy lot in life, his plan pursue,
Keep such examples always in thy view:
To virtue only is the promise given,
It leads to peace, to happiness, to heaven."

In the register are some whimsical entries of illegitimate children born towards the latter end of the sixteenth century, and who are designated as "*Sent of God*," "*Filius populi*," or "*Filius mundi*." Here also are recorded two instances of great longevity: Thomas Boothe, buried March 24th, 1562, aged 112; and Henry Fiveash, aged 104, buried July 24th, 1677.

WOODCHURCH. The face of the country here differs little from that in the adjoining parish of Halden, abundance of underwood and bad roads characterising them both; and though much of Woodchurch lies on rather elevated ground, it is from the before mentioned circumstances far from being pleasant. An expanse of marsh lands called *Shirley-moor* or *The upper levels* commences in the south-west part extending into the parishes of Appledore, Eboney and Tennerden, being about three miles in length, and two in breadth.* This valuable

* Hasted, vol. VII. p. 227.

tract, which contains by estimation one thousand two hundred and forty-five acres, is considered equal in quality to any land in the county; vast numbers of cattle are annually fattened on it, intended principally for the London markets; the chief proprietors of lands in this level are Sir Edward Hales, Bart. the dean and chapter of Canterbury, Richard Curteis, Esq. and Thomas Blackmore, Esq. of Hertfordshire, who is also owner of *Shirley-house* and the *farm* attached to it, situated on the rising ground northward. The church and parsonage stand nearly in the centre of the parish, close to which surrounding a small green, are the few dwellings which constitute the village. The remains of the PLACE-HOUSE, now divided into several distinct tenements, carry with it but few traces of its former consequence, it stands a little removed from the church eastward, and in early times was the residence of a family of some note; who had assumed the surname of Woodchurch about the time of the conquest. Simon de Woodchurch (a descendant of Anchitel de Woodchurch the first on record of the family) was among the Kentish gentry that accompanied the victorious Edward in the Scottish expedition, and who for his gallantry on that occasion received the honor of Knighthood. This estate is now the property of Samuel Egerton Brydges, Esq. second son of the late Edward Bridges, of Wootton, author of the *Censura Literaria* and several other literary productions, of acknowledged merit.

The manor of WOODCHURCH alias TOWNLAND was among the estates allotted for the defence of Dover castle, forming part of the barony of the constable of that important fortress, hence called *the constabularie*. The name of Townland (a corruption of Thunland) it acquired from Ralph de la Thun, who possessed this manor in the reign of Henry III. and in whose descendants it continued, to Thomas Townland (anno 7 Henry IV.) when it passed by sale to the family of Norton and in the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. was

sold to the prior and convent of Leeds, with which it remained until the dissolution of that priory. (anno 31 Henry VIII.)

The church (dedicated to ALL SAINTS) is a spacious edifice, consisting of a nave, and side aisles with a massive square tower at the west end, supported by large raking buttresses and surmounted by an enormous shingled spire, which though it contributes little to the beauty of the building, is a striking feature from many points of view. The scene exhibited on attaining the summit of the hill in the approach from Kenardington hither, and at the distance of about three quarters of a mile from the latter place, is extremely fine. The country in this direction is well wooded and agreeably chequered with farm houses and cottages; the distance on the left is occupied by the town and church of Tenterden, but the most prominent object in the view is the *spire* of Woodchurch rising above the wood on the right. The lancet-headed windows in the high chancel of this church are not destitute of beauty; in one, on the north side, are the arms of the Harbeckendens, and below, a canopied altar tomb with an elegant groined ceiling covered with tracery, at the back of which are several brasses of that family. At one end of the south aisle, is another altar tomb, for Sir Edward Waterhouse, chancellor of the exchequer, and a member of the privy council in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and in the window over this tomb, are five shields of arms in stained glass. In the chancel are brasses for Master Nicholas de Gore, with an inscription in old french and another for William Bengé, *Capellarius*, obt. 1457. The font, which is of Bethersden marble, appears to be ancient, the date is not known, and it would be difficult to determine this point from the thing itself. In the north chancel was formerly a small chapel; and an opening in one corner, and a closed doorway, supposed to have been the approach to the pulpit, are still shewn; the roofs to the aisles appear by a date on one

of the brackets to have been put up about the year 1604. Nicholas Carter, S. T. P. rector of Woodchurch, who died in 1774, was father of the justly celebrated Mrs Elizabeth Carter.

A decree of Archbishop Peckham respecting the tythes of Woodchurch in the year 1281, is preserved among the Lambeth MSS.*



YALDING, which Leland describes as a *praty townlet*, is placed at the confluence of the Beult and Teise with the Medway; † from the peculiarity of its situation, the lower part of the town, and the lands near it are liable to occasional annoyance during the winter season, from the overflowing of these streams; but the temporary inconvenience thence arising, is counterbalanced by a pure and healthy air, to which, these hasty floods may reasonably be supposed to contribute: whatever might have been the appearance of Yalding in the time of Leland (temp. Hen. VIII). the term *praty* cannot now be applied to it, with any propriety. It consists principally of one irregular street containing but few houses of respectable appearance, and is but indifferently paved; at the upper end, on comparatively high ground, stands the school-house, an establishment, under the management of trustees, for the education of boys from the age of seven to fourteen: it was founded and endowed in the year 1663 by William

M m

* See Ducarel's Repertory, p. 122.

† In this river, Eels of an uncommon size are frequently taken. Hasted says, that in the year 1757 an Eel was caught in the river at this place which measured five feet nine inches in length, eighteen inches in girth, and weighed upwards of forty pounds.

Cleave, citizen and haberdasher of London, and a native of this place, for teaching the sons of the parishioners, reading, writing and arithmetic. The present master, Mr. Williams, has held this situation for thirteen years with singular credit; besides the boys on the foundation, he has generally about twenty boarders.

The Medway is navigable for barges to within a short distance of the town, and a considerable intercourse is in consequence maintained between these parts and the different dock-yards on the Thames: much of the lading upwards consisted formerly of great guns, shot, &c. for his Majesty's yards at Chatham and Sheerness, but the foundaries in this neighbourhood have been silenced some years, and at present, oak timber for naval purposes, is the only article of importance conveyed by water from this place.*

Richard Fitz Gilbert, a near relative of the Conqueror, and ancestor of the noble family of Clare, Earls of Gloucester and Hertford, was owner of the MANOR OF YALDING at the period of the Domesday survey: in the reign of Edward II. Hugh de Audley, Jun. became possessed of it, in right of his wife Margaret, second sister, and one of the co-heiresses of Gilbert de Clare, nephew of Edward I. to whom succeeded the Staffords, advanced to the Earldom of Stafford, and subsequently created Dukes of Buckingham. After the prema-

* "The commissioners for the navigation of the river Medway, about twenty years ago, (1777) made a navigable cut or canal, from a place in the river called Hampsted, where they judiciously constructed a lock to a place in the river near Twyford-bridge, and there erected a tumbling bay for the water, when at a certain height, to pass over. The contrivance of this cut from one bend or angle of the river to the other, is of the greatest utility to the navigation, by not only shortening the passage, but by baying up a convenient depth of water, which they could not have had along the lees, and other adjoining low lands on each side of that part of the river, which is avoided by it, or at least not without a very great expence." Hasted, vol. V. p. 157.

ture death of Edward Duke of Buckingham,* in the reign of Henry VIII. that monarch bestowed this manor; on Charles Somerset (natural son of Henry Duke of Somerset) created successively Lord Herbert of Cherbury, and Earl of Worcester, "a person of great parts and much favored both by King Henry VII. and VIII." It is at present among the possessions of Lord Barham, of Barham court in the adjoining parish of Teston, some time since first Lord of the admiralty; but the court lodge and demesne lands have been long separated from the manor itself, and for many years have been in the family of Plumer, of Hertfordshire. This parish also contains the manors of Woodfolde, Lodingford, Jennings court, and part of the manor of Bockingfold, the court lodge of which was anciently surrounded by an extensive park or forest, and had annexed to it a free chapel: its demesnes extended into the parishes of Brenchley, Horsmonden, Marden and Goudhurst, and from their great extent, the wildness of their appearance and the quantity of wood contained within their boundary, had very early acquired the appellation of a *forest*; Twine in his treatise, *de Rebus Albioniciis*, styling this manor *the forest of Buckenwald*. JENNINGS COURT which is among the possessions of Brazen-nose college Oxford, is held on lease by Sir

M m 2

* Edward Duke of Buckingham, was accused and found guilty of conspiring the death of Henry VIII. and for this offence was beheaded on Tower-hill, in the 13th year of that reign. His father, Henry Duke of Buckingham, had before suffered in the same manner at Salisbury, and for the same offence, against the usurper Richard. This unfortunate man, being deserted by the army he had raised in Wales in favor of the Earl of Richmond, took refuge in the house of one Ralph Banister, an old servant of the family, but the cupidity of this ungrateful villain, being excited by the reward offered for the apprehension of the Duke, basely betrayed his master, and independent of the reward offered, had granted to him, as a further remuneration for this service, the manor of Yalding, which he held until the accession of the Earl of Richmond to the crown.

John Gregory Shaw, Bart. The house lies under shelter of the hill, in a retired but pleasant situation, the grounds gently sloping to the midway and well studded with ornamental timber. At Beau-hill, directly above Jennings court, is a respectable farm-house, commanding an extensive prospect in the direction of Nettlested, Watlington, &c. the churches at these places, adding considerably to the interest of the scene.

The ingenious and improvident author of "The Craftsman," (Nicholas Amherst) was a native of this or the adjoining parish of Marden. From Merchant Taylor's school, where he received his grammatical education, he was removed to St. John's College Oxford, whence, for real or alledged irregularities he was expelled; and being incensed at his expulsion, he published those satires against the university of Oxford, known by the title of *Terræ Filius*. But his chief literary undertaking, was "The Craftsman," a very popular work, in which he was assisted by Lord Bolingbroke and Mr. Pulteney. "This work was carried on," says the author of the Biographical Dictionary "for a number of years with great spirit and success, and was more read and attended to than any production of the kind which had hitherto been published in England. Ten or twelve thousand were sold in a day; and the effect which it had in raising the indignation of the people, and in controlling the power of administration, was very considerable. Yet, notwithstanding Mr. Amherst's merit with his party, he was totally neglected by them, when they made their terms with the crown. He died soon after at Twickenham, April 27th, 1742, of a broken heart and was buried at the charge of his printer, Richard Franklin."

The church consists of a nave, side aisles and transept, with a square unsightly tower at the west end. It is spacious, but mean, possessing nothing to please the eye or gratify the antiquary; the principal monuments it contains are those for the families of Warde and Kenward. The present incum-

bent is the Rev. Richard Warde, whose uncle and predecessor the Rev. John Warde, some time since rebuilt the vicarage-house, pleasantly situated a short distance from the town, eastward. "There are *two separate manors*, one belonging to the rectory or parsonage, and the other to the vicarage of this church." *

* Hasted.

THE END.

INDEX.

A.

- ALBINI** William de, or "William with the strong hand," extraordinary account of by Dugdale, 35. 36 (note).
Amherst, Nicholas, author of the Craftsman, some particulars of, 276
Anderida, a roman station and city, 172; besieged and razed by Ælla, King of Sussex, (anno 490) 173 (note) Castle erected on the scite of, destroyed by the Danes, (anno 893), ib.
Angley House, a seat, 81.
Appledore, church of, supposed to stand on the scite of the castle built by the Danes, and demolished by the French, 11.
Architecture, remarks on the style of, between the reigns of Edward II. and Elizabeth, 117; of the middle ages, 243, (note).
Ashford, town of, said to owe its origin to the decay of Chart Magna, 59 and note.
Asserius Menevensis, some notice of, i. (note)
Atwátars, a residence, 116.

B.

- Badsell**, an ancient seat, 246.
Baker, Richard, the English chronicler, notice of, 79, (note).
Barnes street, hamlet of, 102.
Barton, Elizabeth, see Holy Maid of Kent.
Battle of Agincourt, some account of, 222, (note).
Bayhall, a seat, 188.
Becket Archbishop, his shrine, destruction of, visited by one hundred thousand pilgrims in one year, effaces the adoration of the deity at Canterbury, offerings at his altar, 14, (note).

- Bedbury**, a seat, 96.
Bells, instance of the baptism of, 31, (note).
Beult River, survey of, in the reign of Edward III. 120.
Biddenden Maids, traditionary account of, 32-3; their reputed burial place, 33, (note); relation of a similar prodigy by James Paris, contained in the British Museum, and of another by Henry (Hist. of England), ib.
Bilsington, Priory, 27.
Boars, Wild, 67.
Boleyn, Anne, portrait of, by Lord Herbert, 126, (note).
Bounds, a seat, 23.
Boughton place, seat of the Wotton family and birth place of the accomplished Sir Henry Wotton, 41; visited by Queen Elizabeth, 42.
Bow beach, hamlet of, 69.
Brasses, John Weddeol and Maud his wife, 6; Lovelaces, 23; Randolpfs, 32; Mayneys, and Pomfrets, ib; William de Goldwell, and the Tokes of Godington, 62; Thomas Twisden and Benet his wife, William Sharpe and his five wives!! 63; Richard Streatfield, Esq. 70; Roberts, 86; singular one, 87; John Selyard, 90; John Roberts, his wife and family, 119; Sir Thomas Boleyn, 124; Humphrey Clarke and family, Thomas Umfrey, 145; Thomas Chann, Esq. John Stace, 154; Derings and Malmain, 207; Filmers, 230; Nicholas Gore, and William Benge, 272.
Broadford, a seat, 132.
Building, remarks on a small one at the east end of Hawkhurst church, 117-8.
Burnet, Bishop, remarks of, on the conduct of the established clergy, xxvii, (note).

INDEX.

C.

- Careys-cross, a hamlet, 69.
 Caxton William, the first English printer with fusile types, a native of the Weald, xxii, (note).
 Chalybeate springs, at Cranbrook, 77: Penshurst, 192;
 Chart place, a seat 64.
 Cheveney house, a residence, 164.
 Chimnies, remarks on, 200, et seq, (note).
 Chitloy cross, a hamlet, 183.
 Clerical liberality, singular instance of, 161.
 Clothing trade, formerly carried on to a considerable extent at Cranbrook, 73; families sprung from, 75, (note); at Goudhurst, 95.
 Colepeper, Thomas, hung by order of Edward II. 188.
 Combwell priory, 97.
 Court lodge, a seat, 150.
 Cowbeach-green, a hamlet, 213.
 Cox-heath, the scene of several encampments, 159; produces the plant *lunaria*, ib, (note).
 Cranmer, Archbishop, brief character of, &c. 54-5, (note).
 Cromwell, Thomas, Earl of Essex, biographical sketch of 93-4, (note).
 Crookhurst, a hamlet, 245.
 Curfew (or Couvre-feu) bell, still rung at Cranbrook, 81, (note).

D.

- Danes, sai up the Rother (anno 893), 8; destroy the village and fort of Appledore, and erect one of greater strength on the scite of the former, 9.
 Derings, notices of, 205.
 Devils-bit, a plant growing in the neighbourhood of Appledore, 10;
 Dowles, tract of low land, so called, in the parish of Appledore, 8.
 Drayner, William, anecdote of, 220 note.
 Dream, singular one of Dr. Nicholas Wotton, 42, (note).
 Dukes of Buckingham, Henry and Edward, their melancholy end. 275, (note).

E.

- Earthquakes, at Great Chart, 60;

Eden-bridge, 88-9; Hawkhurst, 116.

- Eboney, parish of, 181.
 Edward III. his policy respecting the clothing trade, 74, (note).
 Eel, remarkable one, 273, (note).
 Elford, a seat, 114.
 Elliott, Anne, the actress, lines on her tomb, 260.
 Epitaphs, remarks on, 18, (note); singular one at Chart Magna, 63, (note); at Chart Sutton, 66.
 Erasmus, sometime rector of Aldington, 6; his observations on the slovenly habits of the English people, 203, (note); remarks on, 236, (note).

F.

- Fairlawn, a seat, 217.
 Finchcocks, a seat, 96.
 Filmers, some particulars of, 229.
 Flowing-bolt a contrivance for damming water, 102, [note.]
 Fonts, curious ones at Newenden, 175; Stone, 179; singular circumstance related of one, 223.
 Ford place, ancient seat of the Sydneys, 203.
 Fowlers, a seat, formerly the residence and property of Richard Kilburne, Esq. 115.
 Friday street, a hamlet, 229.
 Friggs Forstal, a hamlet, 91.
 Furnace, the Gloucester, some account of, 147.

G.

- Gibbon Edward, remarks on his "*Decline and fall of the Roman Empire*," 210, (note).
 Glassenbury, seat of the Roberts, 80.
 Glattony, an extraordinary instance of, 46, (note).
 Godington, a seat, 62, (note).
 Goldwell-green, a hamlet, 102.
 Goudhurst chequers, a hamlet, 96.
 Greensted, Edward, his epitaph, 270.
 Groombridge, a hamlet, 221.

H.

- Halden place, a seat, 209.
 Hale street, a hamlet, 183.
 Hales place, a seat, 108.

INDEX.

Hall-house, a seat, formerly belonging to Dr. Nathaniel Lardner, 115.
Hall-place, a seat, 153.
Ham street, a hamlet, 265.
Hartley, a hamlet, 78.
Heirs, wardship of, a considerable branch of royal power during the feudal times, 140, (note).
Hemsted, a seat, 16; visited by Queen Elizabeth, (1575), 17.
Henry of Huntingdon, his opinion concerning the extent of the Weald, ii; a list of his works, ib, (note).
Henry VIII. policy of, respecting the estates of the suppressed monasteries, 72, (note).
Heronry, one in the park of Penshurst, 192.
Hever castle, description of, 125; principal residence of the Boleyns, ib; the scene of courtship between Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn, 126; the chief abode of Anne of Cleves after her repudiation, 127.
High-street house, a seat, 68-9.
Hill-heath, hamlet of, 69.
Hole, the antient patrimony of the Gibbons, 210.
Hollingshed, interesting extracts from, 201, et seq. (note).
Holy maid of Kent, imposture of, 3, et seq.
Holy Trinity, order of, first settled at Headcorn, 120.
Horsmonden house, a seat, 130.
Hume, David, his remarks on religious liberty, and an established religion, (note).
Hunt, William, alias Huntington, a native of Cranbrook, 76, [note]; his epitaph, ib.
Hunton parsonage, description of, by Dr. James Beattie, 133, [note]

I.

Jennings, a seat, 135.
Jennings court, residence of Sir John Shaw, Bart. 275.
Indulgencies, granted by the Bishop of Rochester, 155; and 168.
Intrenchments, two in the parish of Brencley, 53; at High Halden, 109; Kenardington, 139; Newenden, 172.

Na

L.

Land, the comparative value of, 156-7, (note).
Lectures, two founded by Sir Henry Saville, on the subjects of geometry and astronomy, 181.
Lested lodge, a seat, 65.
Lillisdene, a seat, 114.
Linton place, a seat, 158.
Loddenden, a Manor house, 226.
Longevity, instances of, 19; 60; 270.
Lossenham house, a seat, 170.
Lower-green, a hamlet, 186.

M.

Mansel, John, his entertainment of the Kings of England and Scotland, 36-7, (note).
Marble, a grey turbinated, dug at Bethesda, 21.
Marbledon, a seat, 259.
Markets, observations on, 218.
Markham, remarks by, on the extent of the Weald from north to south, iv, (note).
Marle-pit hill, a hamlet, 88.
Marsh-green, a hamlet, 88.
Martyrdom, instances of, 237.
Maytham hall, a seat, 210.
Medhurst row, a hamlet, 88.
Mereworth house, seat of Lord de Despencer, 165.
Milkhouse street, a hamlet, 78.
Mill street, a hamlet, 102.
Moats, use of, 143, (note).
Monuments, Tombs, &c. of Sir George Choute, Bart. 23; the Witherdens, Dynes and Hulses, ib; Sir Edward Hendon, Richard Alldard, the Randolphs, Sir William Boddendam, his wife and family, and the Maynes, 32; the Wottons, Rev. Robert Foote, A. M. Fulke de Peyforer and Edmund Sandford, 47; the Rider family, 50; Nicholas Toke and his five wives, 63; the Roberts, 86; the Bakers, C. Nairn, Esq. and Captain Barwell Adams, ib. Rev. John Johnson, A. M. Rev. Joseph Disney, A. M. Rev. Matthew Disney, B. D. Abraham and Sarah Walter, and John Scott, Esq. 87; the Boys family, Richard Kilburne, Esq. Nathaniel Lardner,

INDEX.

D. D. and Sir Thomas Dunk, 119; Colepepers, 99 and 123; Sir Thomas Boleyn, 124; the Cobhams, *ib*; Rev. Dr. Marriott, Mrs. Anne Hassell, 132; Fane, 136; Humphrey Clarke and family, 145; Sir W. Parker, 146; Sir Horatio Mann, 158; John Cole, Esq. 165; Mary, wife of John Andrews L. L. B. *ib*; Harlackendens, and Sir Edward Waterhouse; 272.
Moor-house, seat of Jesse Gregson, Esq. 114.
Mosaic pavement, said to have been found, 142.
Mottenden, first station of the order of the Holy Trinity in England, 120.

N.

Newland-green, a hamlet, 91.
New lodge, a seat, 118.
North-hatch, a hamlet, 183.
North-park, a seat, 152.
Notice, an indecent one, 108, (note).
Noyes, Robert, author of the poem entitled "Distress" died at Cranbrook, 78, (note).

O.

Oak, a large pollard, 124; remarkable one, 191.
Odo, Bishop of Baieux, some particulars of, 245-8, (note).
Occurrence, a singular one related, 238.
Oxenbooth, the residence of Sir William Geary, Bart. M. P. 184.

P.

Penshurst place, residence of the Sydney's, 192.
Petrefactions, found in the parish of Hunton, 135.
Phenomenon, a singular one, 88-9.
Pilgrims, one hundred thousand said to have visited the shrine of St. Thomas a Becket in one year, 14.
Pinoyon quarter, a hamlet, 180.
Pizein-well, a hamlet, 267; singular custom there, *ib*.
Place house, a decayed seat, 169.
Place house, a seat, 269.

Pond, remarkable one at Aldington, 2.
Preceptory, of Knight's hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, 183.
Priories, at Bilsington, 37; Goudhurst, 97; Newenden, 170.

Q.

Quakers, remarks on, 208.
Quech of Bohemia, elegant lines on, by Sir Henry Wotton, 48, (note).
Queen Mary, brief character of, by *Hume*, 49, (note).

R.

Randolph family, some account of, 28-9.
Ranesley-heath, a hamlet, 69.
Reding street, a hamlet, 236.
Redleaf, a seat, 203.
Register at Staplehurst, curious extracts from, 227, (note); at Watterbury, 270.
Ringlecrouch-green, a hamlet, 213.
River Rother or Limene, variations in its course described, 7-8. 119. and 177; entered by the Danes, anno 893, who sailed up as high as Appledore, *ib*.
Roman Catholics, remarks on the persecuting zeal of, xxiv, (note).
Rood, famous one, 12; Lambard's account of, *ib*, (note); another at Baxley, called the 'Rood of grace' *ib*. et seq.
Roydon hall, a seat, 183.

S.

Saxon, or Anglo-Norman architecture, examples of 175 and 212.
Schools, Free, Benenden, 17; Biddenden, 30; difference between *Land and Money*, endowments of do. exemplified, *ib*, (note); at Cranbrook, 78; Goudhurst, 99; Tunbridge, 257; Yalding, 273.
Shrine of Becket, a fruitful instrument of monkish craft, 14, (note); idolatrous respect for, 15, (note).
Sharp, William, an advocate for matrimony, 63.
Sigbert, King of Wessex, death of, xv.
Simpson, Rev. David, his remarks

INDEX.

on the English constitution, xxi, (note), on religious establishments, xxiv-v.
 Singsted-green, a hamlet, 93.
 Sissinghurst, a decayed seat, 79.
 Small-hythe, a hamlet, 235.
 Smart, Christopher, author of the "Hop-Garden" born at Shipborne, 218.
 Smugglers, some account of, 109, (note).
 Somerhill, a seat, 258.
 Sprivers, a seat, 131.
 Stained Glass, note respecting, 118.
 Standen, a hamlet, 29.
 Standfords end, a hamlet, 88.
 Storms, notices of in the registers of Hunton, 137; description of one, by the Rev. Mark Noble, ib, (note).
 Stone, parish of, 179.
 Stroud quarter, a hamlet, 29.
 Style, Sir Oliver, miraculous escape of, 269, (note).
 St. Legers, notices of, 262-3.
 St. Rumwold, the infant's saint, account of, 40, (note).
 Sunday street, a hamlet, 229.
 Surrenden, a seat, 205.
 Swifts place, a seat, 81.
 Sydney family, particulars of, 192; cf seq.

T.

Taywell, a seat, 98.
 Tenterden church, remarks on, 240; singular stories connected with its tower, 241-2, (note).
 Timber, remarks on the present price of, 51, (note).
 Toke, Captain Nicholas, memorable for his attachment to matrimony, 62; (note).
 Tonga, a seat, 115.
 Trial, a memorable one, between Odo, Bishop of Baieux and Archbishop Lanfranc, 249, (note).
 Trigg, a seat, 26.

V.

Vicars, account of those of Cranbrook, from 1503 to 1706, 82-5, (note).
 Vineyards, at Godington, 63, (note); at Chart Sutton, 94 and note.

Upper green, a hamlet, 186.

W.

Walter, Edmund, his lines on the Lady Dorothy Sydney, 223; some account of the family of, ib.
 Warham, Archbishop, remarks on, 266; (note).
 Weald, boundary of, i-x; Name, early state, and civil and religious condition, x-xxviii; state of the laboring poor, xxviii-xxx; customs and privileges, xxxi-xli; soil, products, value of land, &c. xli-xliii; climate, scenery, &c. xliii-xlvi; roads, xlii-li; minerals, li-lji.
 Weald of Kent Canal; observations on, li-lvi; 98.
 Wiarton, a seat, 48.
 Wickhurst-green, a hamlet, 69.
 William the conqueror, liberality of, 101, (note).
 Witley, a hamlet, 78.
 Winchet-hill, fine views from, 162; original seat of the Roberts family, ib, (note).
 Wittersham, parish of, 180.
 Wosden-green, a hamlet, 29.
 Wotton family, notices of, 41.
 Wyatt, Sir Thomas, honorable mention of by Anthony Wood; *bon-mot* of, 50, (note).

Y.

Yew trees, utility of, in former times, 91, (note).
 Yokes place, a seat, 167.

N n 2

Waters, Printer, Cranbrook.

Just Published,
AND SOLD BY
S. READER, BOOKSELLER & STATIONER,
Cranbrook.

EXTERIOR VIEWS OF
**CRANBROOK, TENTERDEN, ASHFORD, BIDDENDEN,
GOUDHURST & NORTHAM CHURCHES;**
AND OF THE NEW
GENERAL BAPTIST CHAPEL, AT CRANBROOK;
ALSO, AN INTERIOR VIEW OF
CRANBROOK CHURCH.

The above views are elegantly engraved by ROSENBERG, from Drawings
by Mr. DEARN.

Size of the Plates, 13½ In. by 10½ In.

PRICE 3s. 6d. EACH, PLAIN, OR 5s. HANDSOMELY COLOURED.

S. READER has constantly on Sale, at *very reduced Prices*, an extensive collection of **SECOND-HAND BOOKS** in the various departments of Literature and Science, among which are many scarce and valuable works; also a selection of the most esteemed **MODERN PUBLICATIONS** of merit, at the **LONDON PRICES**.

Magazines, Reviews and Periodical Publications procured on the shortest notice, and every Article in the **BOOKSELLING** and **STATIONARY BUSINESS** on the same terms as in London.

Ⓔ A liberal Price is given for Libraries, or parcels of **Second-hand Books**. Books in all Languages, bought, sold or exchanged.

Waters, Printer, Cranbrook.

**This book is under no circumstances to be
taken from the Building**

[illegible]

